Tuesday October 31 1995

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The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

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'He used to say it (the basement) was not a place to have pregnant women or small children. He would just lock off the doors and do whatever he was doing. It was nothing unusual for us to hear him digging up the floors'

'Fred could be very persuasive, very intimidating. He could charm the birds out of the trees, literally. He had the gift of the gab'

'He promised me the world, he promised me everything. Because I was so young I fell for his lies. He promised to love me and care for me and I fell for it'

'I fell for Fred's lies'

Surprise as West gives evidence

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

JUST before noon yesterday in court number three of Winchester crown court, Rosemary West left the dock where she has been sitting for the 16 days of her trial and made her way to the witness box.

She swore on the Bible to tell the whole truth and went on to give evidence for nearly three hours, breaking down in tears periodically and wiping her eyes underneath her spectacles. A packed public gallery, some of whom had brought picnic hampers, listened enthralled.

Until that moment, no-one had known if she would exercise her right not to give evidence. Her decision yielded an account of the persuasiveness, charm and violence of her husband Frederick.

She knew nothing of the deaths of the 10 young women and girls with whose murders she is charged, she told the court, because she and her husband had ended up living separate lives.

She described how she had been raped twice as a teenager, abandoned by her mother after her parents had split up, and sought in West the love she lacked elsewhere. "When he was good, he was very very good," she said. But during their marriage he had changed into a workaholic who forced her to have sex with other men and to have lesbian relationships.

Mrs West, wearing a black jacket, green pinafore dress and black shoes, told the jury she had been born 42 years ago in Barnstaple, Devon, and had moved as a child with her family to Plymouth and later to Bishop's Cleeve in Gloucestershire. Her father was an electrical engineer and she had two younger brothers, one older brother, and three older sisters.

"I loved other children," she said. "I spent most of my life babysitting and playing with other children."

She told her barrister, Richard Ferguson QC, that she was about 14 when she first had sexual intercourse. Not long after she had gone to a Christmas party and been abandoned by the people meant to be giving her a lift home. She had "very reluctantly" accepted a lift with a man who had been watching her, and he had driven past her home and into the hills. "I thought he was going to kill me."

"What did he do?" Mr Ferguson asked. "He raped me."

Her parents had separated for around six months, when she was aged 15. During that time she had lived with a man aged around 30, and had had sex with him. She worked in a clothes shop and was seen many times by the police although no proceedings were taken against the man for having under-aged sex.

After she returned home she had a job in a bread shop in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. While waiting for a bus home one day a man had started "chatting her up".

She said: "I wasn't interested but he was very forcible. I was just hoping the bus would come along." But the man, whom she believed to be a soldier, was very strong and had dragged her into the park and raped her. As she recounted the story, she wept. She then took her bus home from the main bus station. It was there that she met Frederick West and he asked her out. She eventually agreed to meet him at a pub near her home so if anything went wrong she could run home.

He arrived with a fur coat and a lace dress as a present. She told him she could not accept them because her parents would question her about them. "I had no intention of getting involved."

West had told her he was married and looking after two little girls who stayed with him in a caravan. "I got on well with the children," she said. "I loved them straight away. I felt sorry because they never had their mother to look after them. I wanted to look after them." She said West "was just a boyfriend, someone I knew. It was the children that interested me".

She became pregnant and her "shocked" parents threatened to contact the authorities because she had been under-age and she was locked in her room. West had tried in vain to win them over.

"He promised me the world, he promised me everything. Because I was so young I fell for his lies. He promised to love me and care for me and I fell for it," she said.

Asked why she had eventually agreed to live with him, she replied: "I thought, well, my mum had left me, my dad had abused my mum. I just wanted someone to love me." She had wanted to look after West's two daughters, Anne-Marie and Charmaine, and she wanted her own baby. However, she found it difficult looking after three little girls. "Charmaine started resisting my care, misbehaving, not eating, running away." Mrs West said: "I would have to discipline the children. It was my job. [Fred was in prison at the time for stealing a motor tax disc]. I would smack their bottoms or their legs." She denied she had ever tied up Charmaine or struck her with a wooden spoon.

Eventually she and West agreed it would be best for Charmaine to return to her mother. Later "he [West] just told me Charmaine had gone with her mum and she was very happy about it".

When West left prison he had asked her if she had been with other men. "I said of course not. He asked me why not. He told me he wanted me to go with other men." West brought up the subject on a daily basis, she said, telling her she was a young girl who should be having fun.

Asked about her daughter Heather, with whose murder she is charged, she replied: "I loved her very, very very much but I did find her a bit awkward when she was a baby. She would sleep all day and be awake all night which made me very very tired."

She said she had married West when they were 18.

Recalling the Wests' move to 25 Cromwell street, where nine of the bodies were found, she said the house had been "like a cold, wet, dark cave". West had worked on it constantly. "I couldn't help a lot because, as some people say, I was always pregnant," she

continued page 2, col 3

Rosemary West claimed her husband 'promised me the world. Because I was so young I fell for it' DRAWING: ELIZABETH COOK

Blair forces drug retreat from Short

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

CLARE SHORT, one of the most independent-minded members of the Labour front bench, yesterday bowed to the principle of shadow cabinet collective responsibility and apologised to the party leader, Tony Blair, for her weekend call for a fresh debate on the decriminalisation of cannabis.

In an unalloyed apology — which just avoided denouncing her long-held views on the need to review the drug laws — Ms Short said she regretted providing a distraction from the real political issues — the Tories' "lurch to the right".

In a weekend interview with Sir David Frost, Ms Short had said Britain should look at its drugs laws again and not be cowards. Last night she said: "I should not have responded to Sir David Frost in the way I did. I was explaining why I supported an early day motion on this issue many years ago, but I should have realised how it would have been used against me and the party.

"That was the view [on drugs] I held then, but the party has looked at the issue very seriously. It has a clear position against the legalisation of soft drugs and I am perfectly happy with it.

"I am sorry, too, that a few remarks on drugs at the end of an interview on transport issues have provided a distraction from the real political issue of the moment — the lurch to the right of the Tory party since Mr Major was re-elected leader.

"I am, of course, aware of the need for collective responsibility and am happy to abide by it in future."

Mr Blair's office said after the leader's 30-minute interview with Ms Short that it was vital for senior members of the party not to give ammunition to political enemies by speaking out of turn.

Mr Blair's aides insisted that Ms Short had no reason to regret her promotion to a high profile post following her election to the shadow cabinet a fortnight ago.

Her remarks on the Frost programme were doubly embarrassing for Labour since the party had vilified Chris Davies, the Liberal Democrat candidate in the Littleborough and Saddleworth byelection, for calling for a royal commission on soft drugs laws. Mr Davies said yesterday: "Labour's principles have gone to pot."

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, said it was astonishing that "someone who could be a minister of the Crown should actually want to legalise drugs".

Labour retaliated by highlighting the fact that the MP Alan Duncan — Tory chairman Brian Mawhinney's closest aide — called for the legalisation of hard drugs earlier this year.

The shadow home secretary, Jack Straw, widened the offensive by calling on John Major to repudiate Robert Spinks MP, aide to the prisons minister Ann Widdecombe, who in a speech in Felixstowe yesterday said a return to capital punishment was right even if innocent people went to the gallows.

'Political cowards', page 5; Leader comment, Letters, page 8; No smoke without ire, page 9

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Clinton zaps the Power Rangers in battle to switch on Belfast's Christmas tree lights

A president

David Sharrock
Ireland Correspondent

THEY were beginning to say that President Clinton's visit to Northern Ireland next month would be a flop until the policy and resources committee yesterday handed the world's most powerful man a photo-opportunity to die for. The lights of Belfast's Christmas tree are his.

With the gloom steadily gathering around the prospects for a start to some political talks before Mr Clinton's arrival in Northern Ireland, his presidential aides were getting desperate for some bright points on the horizon.

So when the chance arose for him to turn on the festive lights in front of Belfast's City Hall it was something to cheer about. There was one snag. The Power Rangers were already booked for the gig.

But councillors grumbled that Christmas was being hijacked for political purposes when word got out that Mr Clinton wanted to zap the Power Rangers — superhuman television cartoon characters. It was beginning to sound like a Power Rangers plot. A man in a suit is stealing Christmas from the kids for his own cynical motives! Somebody do something!

So they did. Finding the flexibility that Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams is always demanding, the councillors yesterday buried their differences and came up with a compromise. The president gets the lights and the Power Rangers get £3,000 to appear at a "family fun night" in the City Hall a fortnight earlier.

But a city centre children's straw poll suggested that the City councillors had got it wrong. "I'd rather have the Power Rangers than the president," said one youngster. "He'll be boring."

Power Rangers.

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Sketch

Young Mr Hague fails to act his age

Simon Hoggart

MR WILLIAM Hague, the youngest Cabinet minister since Harold Wilson, was boycotted by Labour MPs when he became Welsh secretary last July. They took the view that the traditionally leftwing Land of Song should not be governed by a rightwing, English, Meat Loaf fan, and refused to turn up for Welsh question time.

(Mr Hague's favourite singer will never perform Men of Harlech, but it's good to see him back in the Top 10 with a slow, soulful ballad which could be a politician's anthem: I'd Lie For You — And That's The Truth.)

Yesterday was Mr Hague's second question time, and the Labour MPs trooped back into the Chamber; I would say "sheepishly", except that I'd be reproved by our readers, ever on the alert for racist slights.

I am becoming fond of Mr Hague. He has grown old gracefully, if rather quickly. I see him in his winceyette jimjams, dancing round on Saturday mornings to a favourite Meat Loaf record, before putting on his baggy cardigan and carpet slippers, ready for a day at the DIY centre, feeding his pigeons, or working on a model of York Minster made of matchsticks.

He seems to have a certain inner tranquillity.

Michael Heseltine, nearly twice his age, gives the impression of being in a permanent rage. But like many elderly men, Mr Hague's passion seems all spent. He has the calm of one who has fought life's battles and realised their futility.

One senses that he would like to spend his declining years puffing his pipe, grandchildren gambolling at his feet, without the intermediate stage of parenthood.

His under-secretary is Roderick Richards, who, at 48, is 14 years older in calendar years, but in every other respect his junior. Mr Richards plays the angry young man in their team.

He scornfully pointed out that some 28 Welsh Labour MPs had boycotted question time in July, "but I noticed that every one of them took their pay, even though they weren't here!" he squeaked with that Welsh excess of high-pitched indignation which Nye Bevan used for greater rhetorical effect.

Mr Hague chuckled, perhaps recalling his own fiery youth, so long ago.

Someone asked about widening the A55. Mr Hague affably observed that in each case, it was necessary to decide priorities and to balance the economic case for new roads against environmental considerations.

He was born talking this "on the one hand, on the other" type of stuff. While other youngsters were at Friends of the Earth protests, daring the bulldozers to run them over, Mr Hague was probably having fun with his Junior Town Planner's kit, using his teddy bears to form a committee of inquiry.

Mr Ron Davies, aged 49, the shadow Welsh secretary, rose to offer Mr Hague the formal courtesies. He was somewhat grudging: "We seem to have missed each other — may I now congratulate him on his good fortune in being appointed to the Cabinet?" he said, pedantically implying that merit had nothing to do with it.

Mr Hague gave us his indulgent, seen-it-all-before smile. He thanked Mr Davies for his congratulations, for all the world as if they had been sincere.

He then congratulated *him* for being in his place — a gently barbed remark, since Tony Blair's staff had spent hours briefing that they wanted Mr Davies voted off the shadow cabinet, with the inevitable result that he shot up the poll.

Then Mr Hague mused, apropos the boycott, "We did miss him a little; it was like Hamlet without one of the gravediggers."

It was smart and quick-witted. Perhaps Mr Hague will become our youngest Prime Minister since Pitt, in the golden years of his old age, which are due any day now.

First night

Comedienne behaving badly

Robert Yates

Jenny Eclair, Perrier Pick of the Fringe
Her Majesty's Theatre, London

SEXUAL equality will only be achieved, says Jenny Eclair, when women start behaving as badly as men. But just in case the sisters don't get the message, Eclair attempts to even the scores all on her own. Her show, this year's winner of comedy's Perrier Award, is called Prozac & Tantrums since she judges these to be the options available to a woman in need of a lift. It's not a choice Eclair gets over-anxious about — she's a tantrum woman every time.

Eclair calls her favourite tantrum PMT, that's "premeditated tension", which she likes to spend her days nurturing as a special evening treat for her boyfriend. As a result of PMT — always sharpened, she says, by listening to the anguished singing of Sinead O'Connor — Eclair is able to disprove that old theory that only women bleed. Men do too, especially, she says, when a potato peeler is taken to their foreskins.

This is about the level of Eclair's act. She starts in the gutter, ends in the gutter and, in between, rolls merrily about in the gutter. There's no gentle preparation, no innocent prelude. Punters are not allowed to feel their way into the routine. She opens: "Tonight I came on the train ... still, I managed to pass it off as an asthma attack."

Ten minutes in, and it all becomes too much for two young lovers who get up and leave. Perhaps they are offended. Or maybe the body talk put them in the mood. They can hardly have been surprised by Eclair's tack, since her very point is to play, in her words, "a dirty old woman". Her persona is that of the wiseacre rogue who's lived a bit.

She has compared the stage character — and character it is, since Eclair is a 35-year-old mother who has lived with the same man for 13 years — to old Coronation Street favourites Bet Lynch and Elsie Tanner.

Vivid as they were, neither could quite match Eclair's taste in spangly clothes and towering bouffant hairdo — a bold, peroxide creation. Eclair is not one of those pathetic natural blondes, she says. Instead, she is a "blonde by choice", a choice which sends a message to the world: "I can't type, I can't cook, but I'm a great shag, and you can find me in the dark."

Some might argue that Eclair's act would benefit from greater variety. Perhaps a little light to add to the shade. At times, it's true, her fascination with her nether regions cloys. How many jokes, one wonders, can a woman make about her vagina? (About 78, at last count.) And yet, to temper the character would go against the grain.

The smut is non-stop, as is the delivery. The only time Eclair inhales is when she is smoking, or swigging from the bottle by her side. Her tipple of choice is retsina. It makes housework easy — you can throw up and clean the toilet at the same time.

This review appeared in late editions of yesterday's paper.

Study of European diets aims to expose cause of cancers

SCIENTISTS carrying out the most detailed survey attempted into the links between diet and cancer hope to be able to give people advice within two years about what to eat to reduce the risk, writes Chris Mihill.

The study, known as Epic, is to run for 10 years, following 400,000 people in nine countries, including 40,000 from Britain.

Soledad Blanco, head of the Europe Against Cancer programme of the European Commission, told a conference in Paris that scientists were keen to see if differences in diet between north and south Europe related to wide differences in cancer rates. She said a third of cancers could be diet-related and it was hoped to give the first results from the study in 1997.

Suppressed documents show Government turned blind eye to weapons exports to Iraq via Jordan

Arms trial sees secret files

Richard Norton-Taylor

DOCUMENTS which show that the Government repeatedly turned a blind eye to the sale of arms to Iraq were suppressed at a criminal trial, preventing four businessmen from mounting a proper defence, the Court of Appeal heard yesterday.

It was also disclosed that one of them, Paul Grecian, had earlier provided the intelligence services with the first indication that President Saddam Hussein was building a supergun. MI6 suggested he could be silenced by threats that his activities as an informant could be exposed.

It emerged yesterday that had Whitehall disclosed the documents at the trial, the prosecution would have dropped the case against the four men who were subsequently convicted of conspiring to breach export controls. They were held back through "political expediency".

Hitherto secret papers read out in court reveal that Whitehall knew British arms were exported to Iraq via Jordan but took no action partly for fear of upsetting King Hussein, a valuable ally.

The Whitehall documents were suppressed at the trial at Reading crown court in February 1992 of four men involved in Orditec, a military engineering firm which exported a shell assembly line to Iraq via Jordan in 1989. Paul Grecian, Bryan Mason and Stuart Blackledge, were each given a year's suspended sentence, and Colin Phillips was fined £1,000, after admitting guilt in a plea bargain.

The MI6 document dated August 1990, stated: "We suggest that there is not much to be gained for overall UK interests from Orditec ending up in court particularly remembering the earlier FCO sensitivities towards offending Jordan. On the other hand we certainly do not want to interfere with the investigative process in any way since that could be political dynamite if it ever got out in the present climate."

It added: "If Orditec ends up in court [Grecian] may be persuaded to keep quiet about his connection with [the Met Special Branch] but there is the obvious risk he would try the 'working for British intelligence' ploy. Perhaps this could be turned to our advantage if he could then be put on the witness stand in the Babylon [supergun] prosecution ... However, his personal future might be in some doubt if ever publicly identified as the man who blew the gaff on the Iraqi Babylon project. If we were not too squeamish we might use this point to ensure silence."

The documents proved Mr Grecian was an "extremely valuable informant and risked his life to give the first word about Iraqi secret weapons", Geoffrey Robertson, QC, counsel for Mr Grecian, said.

The court heard that three intelligence reports drawn up between 1985 and 1990 warned about British weapons being diverted through Jordan to Iraq, but the information was not passed to Customs — the responsible prosecuting authority — until 1994.

A fourth intelligence report specifically referred to plans by Orditec to ship to Iraq a shell fuse assembly line. A further embarrassing document disclosed that Customs had been tipped off by US authorities about the Orditec deal in March 1989, seven months before the assembly line was exported. Customs ignored the warning.

A telegram from the British embassy in Amman, dated May 1990, was also disclosed to the court. It states: "Are we trying to ensure that the problem does not arise again by putting a stop to further Jordanian involvement in Iraqi procurement? Have we not turned a blind eye to Jordanian involvement in the past? (The ambassador seems to think that this has been the case.)"

Further documents show Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Glazebrook, the Ministry of Defence official responsible for vetting arms exports repeatedly but unsuccessfully warned about the use of Jordan by exporters selling arms to Iraq.

According to Customs, Mr Grecian did not refer to the Orditec deal in his meetings with his Special Branch contact, Detective Constable Stephen Wilkinson. But Mr Robertson said yesterday it was "inconceivable" he was not asked what he was doing in Iraq to enable him to supply them with information about President Saddam's arms procurement network.

The documents were denied the four men at the trial after Peter Lilley, then trade and industry secretary, and Kenneth Baker, then home secretary, signed Public Interest Immunity certificates citing national security concerns.

The hearing, before the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor, sitting with Mr Justice Macpherson and Mr Justice Maurice Kay, continues today.

Rosemary West giving evidence ILLUSTRATION: ELIZABETH COOK

THE WEST TRIAL: 'She like others fell under his spell, became pregnant by him. Thereafter Frederick West abused her as he abused everyone else during his evil life'

Rosemary 'knew nothing of murders'

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

ROSEMARY West neither knew of nor participated in any of the murders of which she was accused, and had nothing to do with concealing them, Richard Ferguson QC, opening the defence case, told the jury yesterday.

"I want to tell you as loudly and clearly as I can that Rosemary West is not guilty of any of the charges," he said.

A taxi driver had told him it would be a great service if someone put arsenic in Mrs West's tea. But the driver then admitted he knew nothing about the case. That was shocking, Mr Ferguson said.

There was no evidence about how the victims died. "The Crown has filled the void with prejudice and speculation."

He said Mrs West was only 15 when she met Frederick West: "She like others fell under his spell, became pregnant by him. Thereafter Frederick West abused her as he abused everyone else during his evil life."

The Crown had claimed she was West's willing assistant and partner and if she lived in a house with him she must have known what was going on. But the defence argued this theory was affected by prejudice and distortion.

"The fact that Rosemary West may be a lesbian doesn't make her a murderer. The fact she had sex with some of the lodgers doesn't make her a murderer. The fact that she was forced into prostitution doesn't make her a murderer. The fact she had sexual aids in her house doesn't make her a murderer."

He said that 25 Cromwell Street was a busy, chaotic house where it was possible not to notice many of the comings and goings; excavation work was not necessarily a matter of comment because West was a builder. For these reasons the jurors should discount the theory that Mrs West must have known what was going on.

> 'You may think witnesses know their payouts rely on convictions'

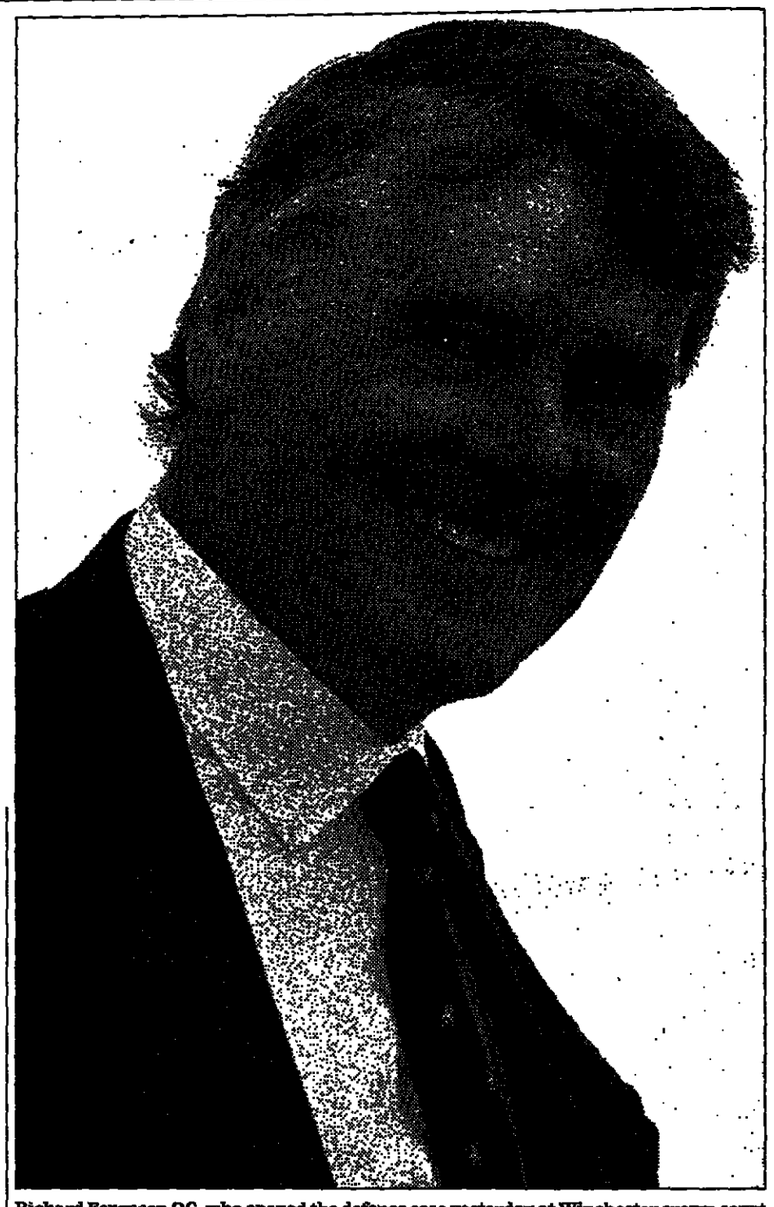
The prosecution's case relied heavily on the fact that some victims had been found with pieces of tape and rope which suggested sexual bondage. But similar articles had been found with the remains of Ann McFall who had, the evidence suggested, been killed by West before he met Rosemary: "Where does that leave the Crown thesis?

"The Crown has built a very intelligent, very careful and very speculative case. The stack of cards upon which their case rests is that all the victims with whom you are concerned were the victims of sexual abuse, and Rosemary West was a necessary ingredient in that mix."

Mr Ferguson cast doubt on the prosecution's suggestions that the victims were killed where they were found, that Mrs West had a complete run of the house, and that she played a vital part in luring victims to the Wests' car: "What if [defence] evidence indicates to your satisfaction that Frederick West was not only capable but did, on occasions, try to entice people into his car on his own?"

Mr Ferguson said many witnesses had received money from the media. "There may have been an element of amateur dramatics in the way they gave their evidence. You may think ... they know what they will be paid is contingent upon there being convictions. No representative of the media is going to pay out large sums of money when Rosemary West is acquitted. The stories become worthless."

He reminded jurors Mrs West had been interviewed on tapes they had heard in the court last week. They had also heard that police had telephone-tapped a number of safe houses in which she had stayed for more than two months. "Not a word of admission came from that evidence."



Richard Ferguson QC, who opened the defence case yesterday at Winchester crown court

'I was ruled by Fred'

Court told of husband's charm, persuasiveness and violence

continued from page 1

said. West would not allow any of them into the cellar when he was working there. "He used to say it was not a place to have pregnant women or small children. He would just lock off the doors and do whatever he was doing. It was nothing unusual for us to hear him digging up the floors."

At West's insistence they had taken in six young men lodgers. "I called them dropouts," said Mrs West. "They were smoking drugs, they were dirty, they were a mess." The police raided the house regularly looking for drugs.

Her husband had persuaded her to go to bed with the lodgers. Eventually they moved out and were replaced, at Fred's insistence, with young women lodgers whom he believed would be cleaner and better behaved. At this time they led almost separate lives.

Again at her husband's insistence, she had gone to the pubs and clubs of Gloucester to pick up other men. If she tried to refuse he would make her life so miserable at home that she would have to go out. These men did not pay her money but would give her some cash at Easter or Christmas and occasionally flowers and chocolates.

She said she had recognised at an early age that she was attracted to other girls but did not recognise it as a sexual thing. However, she grew to enjoy them. "My sexual relationships with other women were very special to me. They were warmer, closer, I would say they were more fun [than relationships with men]. I felt more satisfied in a sexual way."

During this time more of her eight children were born. Some had other fathers and West would refer to them as "our love children".

She said she could hardly remember Caroline Owens, whom she was convicted of indecently assaulting in 1972. "I knew in some way I had done wrong. I wanted it to go away. My memory is almost non-existent."

West had persuaded her that Caroline Owens was willing to have a sexual relationship with her. She remembered putting her arm around the girl and touching the top of her clothes but as soon as she had resisted, she had stopped. "Fred was a threat at that moment in time. I remember things got out of hand. I was pleading with Fred to stop. I didn't want Caroline hurt. It was a mess."

Afterwards she had wanted to leave, but had been unable to do so. "Fred could be very persuasive, very intimidating. He could charm the birds out of the trees, literally. He had the gift of the gab."

She also told Mr Ferguson that although they had picked up hitchhikers over the years, they had never brought them back to Cromwell Street.

Asked if she remembered Lynda Gough, she said she could recall her only very vaguely because she wore old-fashioned glasses. She had no recollection of victims Carol Ann Cooper, Lucy Partington, Therese Siegenthaler, Shirley Hubbard, or Juanita Mott.

John Harris: denied John Lloyd's evidence but was hanged

Points of conflict

❑ John Lloyd in 1995: 'I was made to stand on one spot. It is a devilish torture for would-be heroes . . . I stood for two days.'

John Lloyd in 1966: 'It still puzzles me that I was left unquestioned'

❑ John Lloyd in 1995: 'We would choose remote pylons . . . I always did the driving . . . I was pretty junior'

Mr Justice Ludorf in 1964: 'It is common cause that the plan progressed in this way: They had the three projects in mind.' The projects were to bomb a Pretoria Post office, a parking garage and Johannesburg railway station.

❑ John Lloyd in 1995: 'Such a withdrawal (of his evidence from the safety of Britain), I thought then and now know, would have been of no weight'

John Lloyd in 1964: 'The accused (Harris) said that if a few lives were taken, this would be tactically advisable'

❑ John Lloyd in 1995: 'I do not condone terrorism'

Mr Justice Ludorf in 1964: 'Whether here or abroad he must sooner, or later face his comrades

Police hold back the curious at Johannesburg railway station after the bomb planted by Harris had killed an elderly woman

Trial papers challenge Labour man's tale of hangman

A court judgment and letter appear to contradict candidate John Lloyd's explanation why and how he betrayed a fellow terrorist in South Africa

Report by David Beresford

John Lloyd: refused to retract evidence

THE Guardian has obtained documents which throw doubt on the explanations offered by the Labour Party parliamentary candidate for Exeter, John Lloyd, as to why he betrayed a fellow anti-apartheid activist to the South African hangman in the mid-1960s.

A letter by Mr Lloyd the year after the execution of John Harris appears to contradict his account of torture he underwent before he agreed to give evidence for the state. A transcript of the judgment in the Harris case also suggests that Mr Lloyd has understated his role in acts of sabotage and the importance of his testimony in sending Harris to the gallows.

Since Thursday, when the Guardian broke the story of the incident haunting the political career of the Exeter politician, Mr Lloyd's role in the events leading up to the execution of Harris has been the subject of heated debate. Mr Lloyd has been extensively interviewed and wrote a long article, published at the weekend, defending his position.

Harris was executed in 1965 for planting a bomb at Johannesburg railway station which killed a woman, 77-year-old Ethel Rhys. He gave a 10-minute warning to the railways police who failed to clear the platform. Harris was at the time a member of the African Resistance Movement (ARM), a group of radical intellectuals engaged in sabotage of inanimate targets in protest against apartheid.

Most of Harris's accomplices in the ARM, including Mr Lloyd, were rounded up by police before the station blast. Mr Lloyd broke under interrogation. After testifying against Harris and other members of the ARM in return for indemnity, he emigrated to Britain. Friends and family, fighting to save Harris from the gallows, appealed to Mr Lloyd, in the safety of Britain, to retract his evidence in the hope that it would win him clemency. Mr Lloyd declined.

In his explanations to the Guardian and, subsequently, to other newspapers, Mr Lloyd said he broke after being beaten and made to stand for 1½ to two days. In his article on Sunday he said: "I was made to stand on one spot. It is a devilish torture for would-be heroes . . . I stood for two days. On the evening of the second day, a bomb exploded on the Johannesburg railways station."

The bomb exploded on July 24 1964, a Friday night. But in a letter written in October 1966 — to a British journalist who was preparing a book on the Harris story — Mr Lloyd says: "It still puzzles me that I was left unquestioned" in police cells "until about 10am on the Monday". At another point in the letter Mr Lloyd writes: "I did not on the night of the 24th implicate John with ARM. I can remember that on the Monday, when I did do so, I had to go through the draft statement and fill in the places where he was involved . . ."

In his article at the weekend Mr Lloyd also characterises his involvement in sabotage as minimal. He said: "We would choose remote pylons . . . I always did the driving . . . I was pretty junior and I was unskilled in explosives . . . It was unreal; I just blanked everything out and did it."

The judgment in the Harris case paints a different picture. Summing up the evidence, Mr Justice Kudorf said Lloyd and Harris "had three projects in mind", one of which was the station bombing which Harris was to carry out. Mr Lloyd was to have carried out two other, simultaneous, bomb attacks, on the Pretoria post office and a parking garage.

The trial judge noted: "Lloyd, while conceding the discussion about the three projects, denied any decision upon them . . . We think the probabilities favour [Harris] on this issue."

Mr Lloyd, who is a practising barrister, also claimed in his weekend article that he refused to recant his evidence once in Britain because "such a withdrawal, I thought then and now know, would have been of no weight. I have since seen the transcript of the Harris appeal and my evidence was not cited once."

Although the absence of any reference to Mr Lloyd's evidence suggests that Harris's lawyers saw it as being of little help to his appeal, it was clearly of central importance to the initial trial.

The transcript of Judge Ludorf's judgment shows that Mr Lloyd told the court that he had warned Harris that the station attack "was fraught with danger to human life.

"Although [Harris] maintained that his plan would work and that nobody would be injured, Lloyd maintained that towards the end of their discussions the accused admitted that he could not exclude this danger completely and Lloyd added that the accused said that if a few lives were taken, this would be tactically advisable, because it would save so many lives in the future." Harris, in the judge's words, "stoutly denied this allegation by Lloyd".

Judge Ludorf came down on Mr Lloyd's side. "Although he may have been induced by a motive of self-preservation to blacken the conduct of the accused and to whiten his own, he must have been, we think, also motivated by saying as little as possible against his friends. Life must go on. Whether here or abroad he must sooner or later face his comrades . . ."

The Harris case was a particularly traumatic episode for the left in South Africa. The only white to have been executed for acts committed in opposition to apartheid, he was one of a group of young men, most of them liberal idealists, who considered that their position of privilege imposed a responsibility to lead the the struggle again racial injustice. The death at Johannesburg station and the execution of Harris destroyed the idealism as well as two lives.

Leeson could be free in a year

Nick Cumming-Bruce in Bangkok and Katerina von Waldersee in Bonn

NICK LEESON, the "rogue" trader behind the collapse of Barings Bank could get away with a Singapore jail sentence as short as 12 months as a result of plea-bargaining, it emerged yesterday.

His sentence could begin before Christmas according to legal experts, though they say Singapore prison conditions will be far tougher than the Frankfurt jail in which he is being held.

Mr Leeson, who faces charges carrying a potential maximum sentence of 14 years' imprisonment, is expected back in Singapore by the end of November and is likely to be brought to court within 48 hours of his return to be charged. Lawyers suggest the case could take three months, but one experienced counsel said: "He could well be sentenced by Christmas."

Mr Leeson, who has been in custody in Germany for the last eight months, will be handed over to Singapore police at Frankfurt airport in the second half of November. The exact timing of his departure will be kept secret.

Plea bargaining under Singaporean law does not permit US-style deals on the length of his sentence, which is left to the judge.

A judge could still sentence Mr Leeson to a year or more in jail on each of the charges on which he eventually stands trial, lawyers say.

But Walter Woon, a law professor at the National University of Singapore and a Singapore parliamentarian, said Mr Leeson's initial fears of up to 14 years in jail were unfounded. "If he pleads guilty and co-operates fully and there is legal evidence that he was just a pawn in a larger game, he might get off with a sentence of only 12 months," said Prof Woon.

The judge will be influenced by whether Mr Leeson gained personally, the extent of his responsibility for the losses that brought Barings down and whether or not he was acting on instructions.

A key factor in Mr Leeson's decision to volunteer to face trial in Singapore may well have been the country's official report into the crash of Barings Bank which was released earlier this month. The report found that the 28-year-old futures trader was not the sole culprit and that his dealings were concealed by his superiors. He faces 11 charges of fraud and forgery.

MPs attack Bank of England, page 11

Houdini enthusiasts fail to escape ban on graveside ceremony

Ian Katz in New York

IF HARRY Houdini prises open his brass coffin and emerges from his grave in New York's Machpelah Cemetery at 1:26pm today, there will be no one there to see it.

Complaining of vandalism, cemetery authorities have banned the ritual performed by magicians at the grave of the great escape artist every year since his death at 1:26pm on October 31, 1926.

The magician, who became famous escaping from straitjackets, vats of water and even Scotland Yard, supposedly promised one final, literally death-defying escape on the anniversary of his passing.

His disciples in the Society of American Magicians could not agree on whether that meant the anniversary of his death according to the Jewish or Gregorian calendars but assembled at his grave on Halloween, October 31, anyway.

For 68 years they performed a hybrid ceremony, part Jewish, part "magical" ritual.

Houdini didn't move but, according to cemetery manager David Jacobson, other things did.

After each year's Houdini ceremony, says Mr Jacobson, he found evidence of "dastardly deeds . . . monuments worth hundreds of thousands of dollars turned over, vegetation ripped off graves, broken benches, even fires."

Last year he persuaded the magicians to conduct their ceremony on the Jewish anniversary of Houdini's death, but this year the city's conjurors have been less co-operative.

"Houdini would have been extremely annoyed," James Colligan, regional vice-president of the Society of American Magicians, told the New York Times.

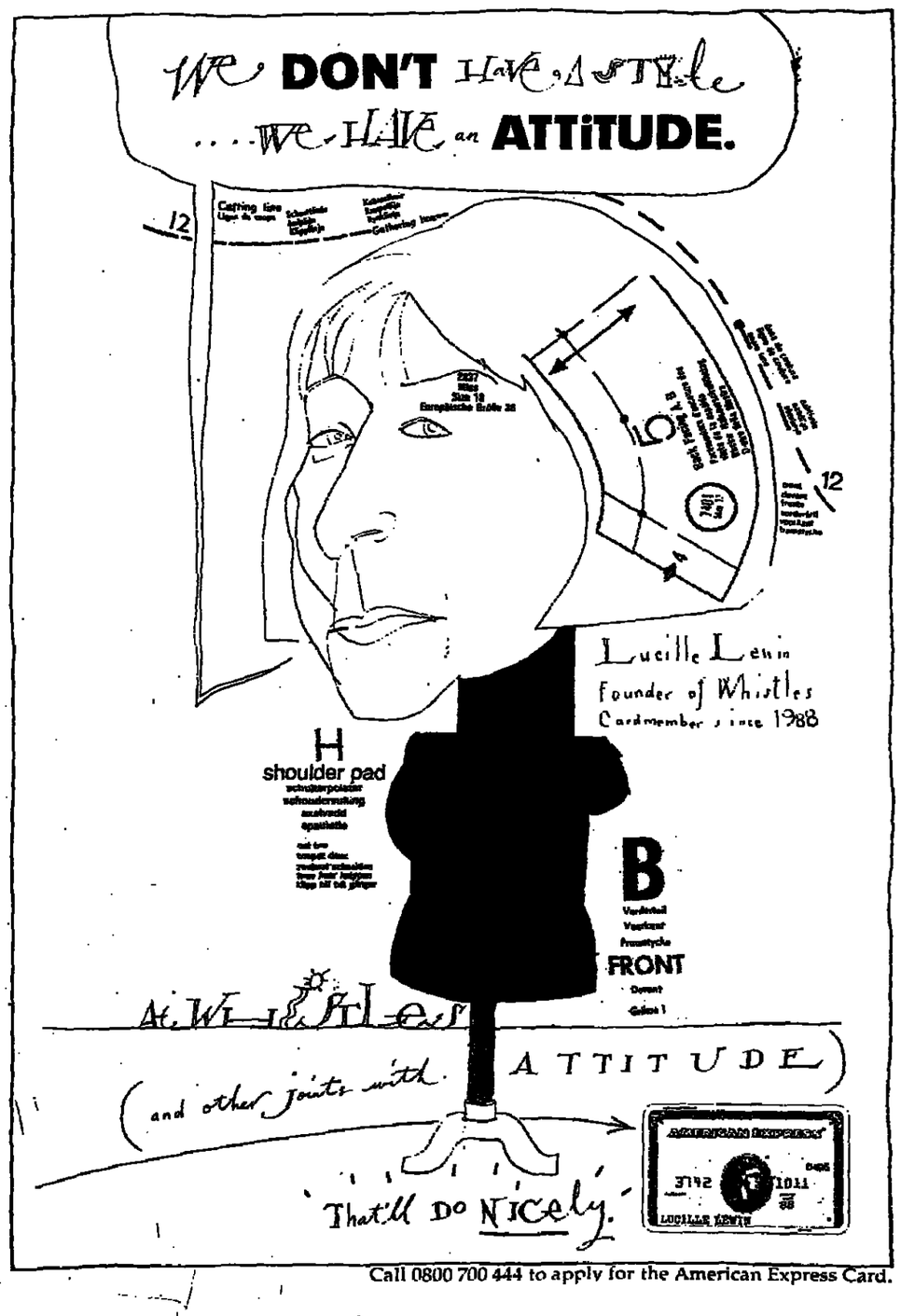
Born Erich Weiss, Houdini died at 52 of intestinal damage after a young man accepted his trademark challenge to punch him in the stomach before he could tense his muscles.

For years his widow Beatrice attempted to make contact with him beyond the grave.

Mr Jacobson insists the gates of his cemetery will be locked today: "We have a Congressional Medal of Honour winner buried eight feet from him. This is a man who died on the beaches of Normandy and his memorial was smashed in half. He gave his life, so we could sit here today and talk of this foolishness."

Though she is managing director of 'quality erotic' satellite channel Playboy TV, Rita Lewis did not end her day by smearing chocolate over her pneumatic breasts, as suggested in the programme for flagging long-term couples, 101 Ways To Excite Your Lover. Adrian, her husband, did not photograph Rita in a quality erotic pose.

Women G2 Page 4



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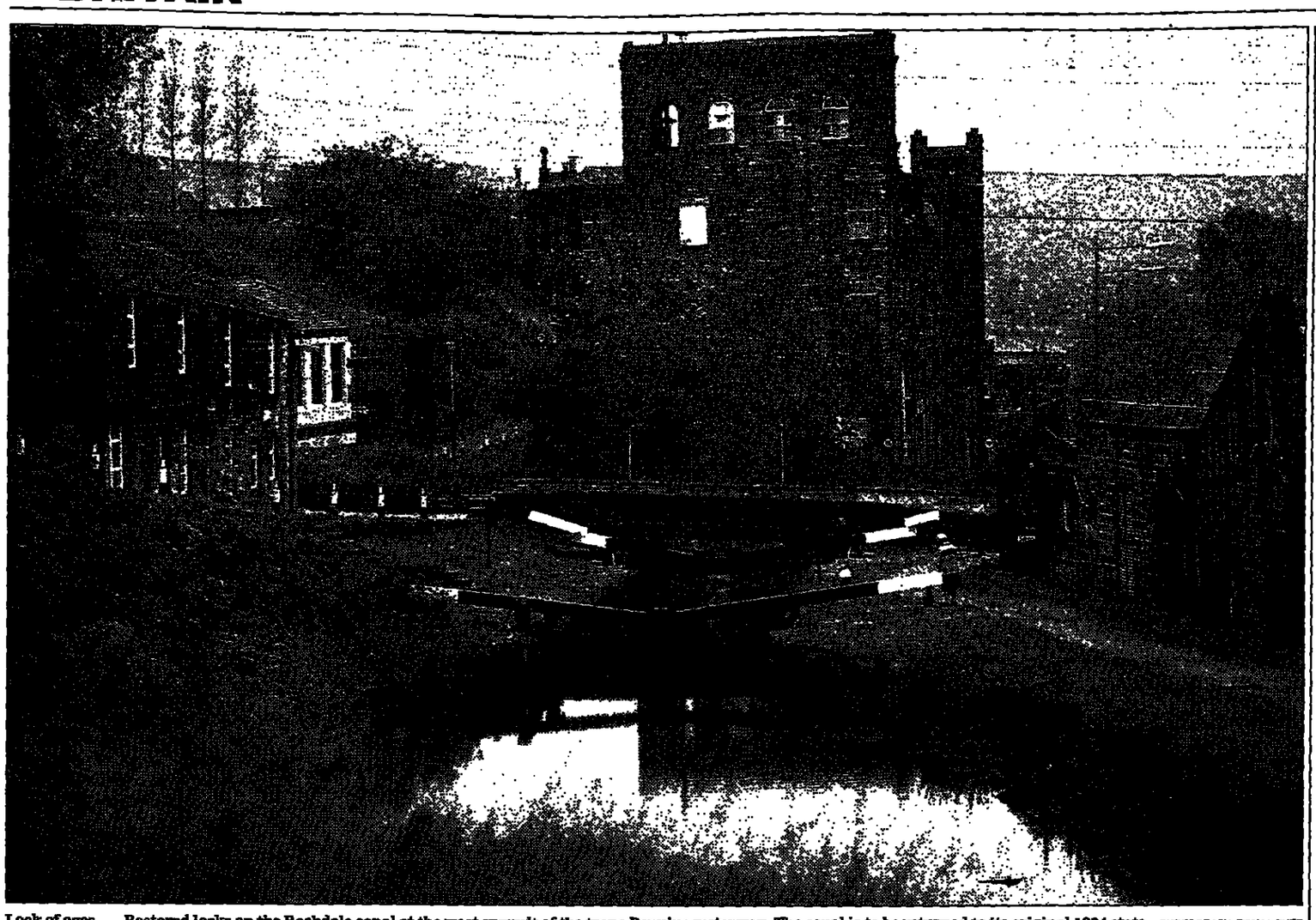


Lock of ages . . . Restored locks on the Rochdale canal at the west summit of the trans-Pennine waterway. The canal is to be returned to its original 1804 state PHOTOGRAPH: DON McPHEE

Tate boosted by £50m lottery grant

Maev Kennedy and James Meikle

THE transformation of the dilapidated Bankside power station in London into a new Tate Gallery, with a grant of £50 million from lottery funds, was chosen yesterday as the third Landmark project to mark the millennium as new political differences emerged over how individuals might benefit from the fund.

Other major grants announced by the Millennium Commission included almost £12 million to restore Rochdale canal, grants to two major forestry projects totalling £11 million, and £7.5 million to put the collections of over 200 Scottish museums and galleries on to CD-Roms accessible at every school.

Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, who chairs the commission, last night sketched out how individuals might win new millennium bursaries from National Lottery funds which have so far been devoted only to capital projects, apart from schemes supported by the Lottery Charities Board where money can be used to employ staff.

The awards, on offer to people of all ages, would not be "primarily about an individual furthering his or her own intellectual skills or economic capacity" but linked to "wider community benefits and fellowship".

Mrs Bottomley suggested the awards, which would not depend on academic qualification and be open to people of all ages, might reflect individuals' contributions to communities, the environment, and science and technology, although they might also cover arts, sport and heritage if public consultation backed the idea.

They would be funded at first through annual lottery income but later through a £100 million investment fund. "We expect that several hundred, if not thousands, of awards will have been made by the millennium."

But the awards did not appear to go as far as sources suggested last week when Mrs Bottomley tried to trump Labour's John Cunningham's call for a lottery "talent fund" which would help young athletes, musicians, artists, designers and engineers.

The Sports Council is consulting on whether lottery money should be available to help gifted teenagers attend John Major's planned British Academy of Sport, but at the moment there are no government plans to allow other lottery grants bodies to consider their own bursaries schemes.

Mr Cunningham said Mrs Bottomley's suggestions 'don't sound like' the plans he announced last week.

There has been sharp criticism from other regions of a perceived bias in lottery grants towards the South-east, including the controversial arts lottery grants to the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden, and towards rebuilding Sadler's Wells theatre. The Millennium Commission was careful to stress yesterday that the Tate grant is only its second grant to London — a £2.2 million grant to London Zoo was announced earlier this month.

Other millennium grants announced yesterday were for Woods on Your Doorstep, a project by the Woodlands Trust, for 200 community woods within walking distance of towns and villages (£6.5 million), a separate project for the Black Country Urban Forest, West Midlands (£4.2 million), the Rochdale canal grant (£12 million), the Scottish Cultural Resources Access Network, by the National Museums of Scotland (£7.4 million) a new community centre at Kirkwall in Orkney (£3.7 million) and £600,000 to a project for salmon ladders on the River Kennet which should result in a self perpetuating salmon stock in the Thames, not seen since the mid 18th century.

Rochdale

Canal to relive glory of 1804 opening day

Martin Wainwright

CASTING about for a counterbalance to London's huge share of lottery loot, the Millennium Commission could hardly have chosen a more Northern icon than the Rochdale canal, awarded almost £12 million yesterday.

Scrambling up from Yorkshire's Nip Square and Bottomley locks to Summit, once the only gap in the trans-Pennine tram system, the waterway ends at the Manchester Nine flight of locks, where Deirdre's husband Shamir in Coronation Street met his mysterious end.

The enormous restoration project, involving 91 locks over 32 miles which took even the fastest 19th century narrowboat more than a week, also invokes the New North of spruced-up Victorian warehouses, hi-tech industry and tourist attractions. John Battye, leader of Oldham council and a partner in the Rochdale Canal Trust, yesterday compared the scheme with the heyday of 19th century urban parks which reached its peak in northern cities.

"We have worked for almost a decade with government agencies and the voluntary sector to transform long stretches of this once-neglected canal into an attractive park, well used by local people and visitors alike," he said. Although blockages to navigation remain to be removed at Littleborough and beneath the M62 — the target of the lottery cash — boats can ply the 15-mile Yorkshire stretch and more than four miles in Lancashire.

Most of the towpath is also open, much used by walkers, cyclists and fishermen. The millennium money, matched by funding claims on English Partnerships, the European Commission and private trusts, is intended to return the whole canal to its state at the grand opening in 1804.

"It will also complete a 'Pennine ring' for canal users, joining up with the Leeds-Liverpool canal to make a complete circle," Mr Battye said. Organisers of the Pennines' proposed second canal ring, re-opening the three-mile Standedge Tunnel between Huddersfield and Oldham, are hoping that their rival millennium bid will not suffer from a "That's enough canals" syndrome.

The Rochdale's revival has also led to some wry faces at the developers Town Centre Securities, which bought the private Rochdale Canal Company in the early 1970s, primarily for the value of its wharves and basins as development land. Duncan Syers, spokesman for the Leeds-based company, said yesterday: "We have seen the canal gradually return to its original use ... but it's not something which will put our shares up."

The company still hopes to develop the canal's main Manchester basin.

London

Poor borough hits £50 million arts jackpot

Sarah Boseley

THE defunct Bankside power station, whose myriad broken windows have stared hopelessly across the Thames for over a decade, is to be transformed into the centrepiece of an arts quarter that will do for Southwark what the Pompidou Centre did for once-decaying Beaubourg in Paris.

The £50 million grant for the project goes to the Tate Gallery.

Jeremy Fraser, leader of Southwark council, took millennium commissioners to the top of the power station tower, which will become the highest public observation platform in the city.

Hadn't the re-created Globe Theatre next door already been awarded lottery money, they asked.

"This is not arts — it's regeneration," Mr Fraser told them. The council, "which does not have money flowing out of its pockets", has put in £1.5 million so far.

The new arts and tourist quarter would change the centre of London, said Mr Fraser.

Nicholas Serota, the Tate's director, said: "It will do an extraordinary amount to help Londoners rediscover the Thames, the great artery running through London." The new Tate would be the catalyst for redevelopment along the south bank. Local unemployment runs at about 25 per cent, and Southwark has extracted commitments that construction workers will be recruited locally and that all jobs at the new gallery will be offered first in the borough.

Some 650 permanent jobs are expected to be created in the community and 2,400 across London as a whole.

Ban urged on Muslim extremists

John Carvel, Education Editor

THE National Union of Students called on the Government yesterday to ban the extremist Islamic group Hizb-ut-Tahrir after evidence that it had embarked on a widespread campaign of intimidation and violence in British colleges.

Jim Murphy, the NUS president, said the group was sending students overtly racist propaganda calling for the removal of Jews and Hindus from places in higher education. "It is the single biggest extremist threat in the UK at the moment. The college authorities know it, the police know it, and it is astonishing that Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, is doing nothing about it," he said.

The students were supported by the Association of University Teachers. David Triesman, its general secretary, said he was alerting members. "It is essential we all work together to ensure that universities are supportive environments for learning and living, irrespective of a student's racial origins," he said.

Evidence of the extent of Hizb-ut-Tahrir's penetration of student campuses came in results yesterday from a 24-hour telephone hotline set up a year ago for students to report incidents of racism.

Although publicity for the hotline featured images of the National Front and British National Party, two-thirds of the calls from students expressed concern about the behaviour of Hizb-ut-Tahrir.

There were more than 100 reports of distribution of offensive material by Islamic extremists, primarily Hizb-ut-Tahrir, and 50 reports of offensive meetings, 47 threats of violence and 31 acts of physical intimidation or harassment.

Mr Murphy said the Government could act against the group under existing legislation, but the threat posed by it was so serious that Mr Howard should consider banning it. "Several Muslim countries in the Middle East have banned this organisation, but this country is not willing to use its power."

Mr Murphy said London Guildhall University was closed for a day this month after a warning from the police that Hizb-ut-Tahrir was planning violence. There were also several incidents when its activists clashed with students trying to prevent them recruiting among the intake of undergraduates.

"Their material is overtly racist. It calls for the destruction of Israel and India. It calls for a ban on homosexuality. They have circulated material in student unions saying that Jewish students have no place in our education system, that Hindu students are dogs, and that women should be subservient."

Results of the Campus Watch racism hotline showed 91 complaints against the British National Party and other extreme right factions, compared with 271 against Islamic extremists. There were also reports from other English regions, Scotland and Wales.

The Home Office said it was aware of Hizb-ut-Tahrir, but had no power to ban it. All organisations had the right to freedom of speech unless they were identified with terrorism, a spokeswoman said. The distribution of racist material was an immediately arrestable offence.

Millions attend Darcy wedding

Andrew Culf

THE final episode of BBC1's six-part adaptation of Jane Austen's novel Pride and Prejudice attracted a record audience for a TV costume drama.

Unofficial figures revealed 10.1 million viewers watched the marriage of Elizabeth Bennet, played by Jennifer Ehle, and Mr Darcy (Colin Firth). Another million are thought to have recorded the programme on video, and Saturday night's BBC2 repeat has been attracting audiences of up to 2 million.

Pride and Prejudice was watched by 37 per cent of the audience, while ITV's London's Burning attracted 51 per cent (14.3 million).

Jane Austen book sales are booming as a result of the series. The Penguin version sold 25,000 last week.

Met Office chief faces penalty for failing to meet targets

David Hencke, Westminster Correspondent

JULIAN HUNT, chief executive of the Meteorological Office, may suffer a £4,800 pay cut next year for failing to meet weather accuracy and business targets, MPs heard last night.

The £80,000-a-year director is expected to lose the cash after Paliament's financial watchdog, the National Audit Office, revealed that the Met Office had misled the public about meeting its Whitehall efficiency targets.

As a result MPs on the Commons Public Accounts Committee were told by Richard Mottram, the permanent secretary at the Ministry of Defence, that he could lose part of his 15 per cent bonus payments next year.

He told Robert Sheldon, the Labour chairman of the committee, that the Ministry of Defence, which is reponsible for the weather agency, had paid his bonus last year on estimated performance. He said the findings of the NAO investigation showed that bonuses equivalent to 6 per cent of his salary were likely to be held back next year.

MPs were also told that a £100,000 payout to a senior Meteorological Office director to quit his job two years early was too high and against legal advice. Mr Mottram told Denzil Davies, Labour MP for Llanelli, that Michael Bowack, the former director of finance and administration, had performed his job adequately and the department would have faced an unfair dismissal case. He admitted that legal advice obtained later revealed they need not have paid him £100,000 to leave.

● The year since November 1 1994 is set to be the warmest 12-month period on record, the Met Office said last night.

The average temperature of 11.2C beats the previous record of 10.8C for the period from May 1 1989 to April 30 1990, a spokesman said. However, cooler weather over the last week seems likely to dash expectations that this would be the warmest October in central England since records began in 1659. But it is set to be the driest October since 1985 — bad news for millions of people hit by hosepipe bans.

Martin Wainwright adds: Yorkshire Water is finally abandoning its five week long battle to stave off water cuts, with a decision to stop supplies in Halifax and Huddersfield on a rota basis in three weeks' time.

Only steady rain or an unprecedented cut of a quarter in customers' water usage will prevent the move, with five of Halifax's 12 reservoirs empty and levels in others down to 11 per cent of capacity and falling.

Ten-month animal rights protest ends as livestock exports suspended

Paul Brown, Environment Correspondent

THE 10-month animal rights protest at Brightlingsea in Essex ended last night when livestock exporter Roger Mills suspended operations.

Mr Mills from Framlingham in Suffolk, blamed market forces and the police for placing undue restrictions on lorry movements but said his decision was temporary. However, the police said they were standing down their costly operation to allow the convoys through.

Since the protests began, 174 convoys have been through Brightlingsea at a cost of £2.25 million in extra policing.

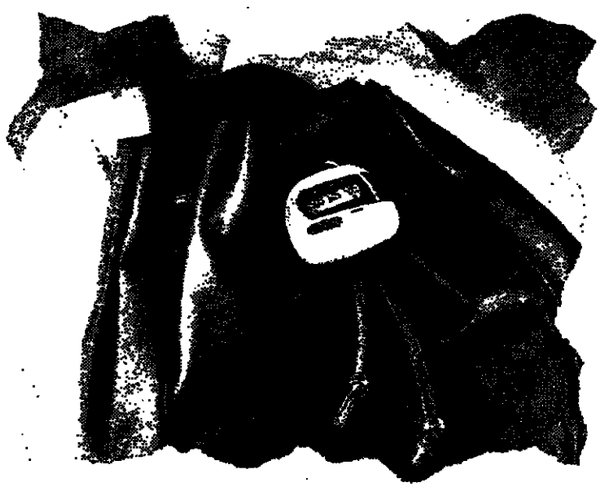
At the peak of the protests, 300 police were required to keep the peace.

A police spokesman said: "We are delighted we can get these officers back to their regular duties, which is preventing and detecting crime.

It has been a difficult balance between Mr Mills's right to carry on his trade and the right to legitimate protest."

Brightlingsea Against Live Exports (Bale) said on its daily telephone message to supporters: "It is fantastic news" and invited everyone involved to a party to celebrate.

No strings attached.



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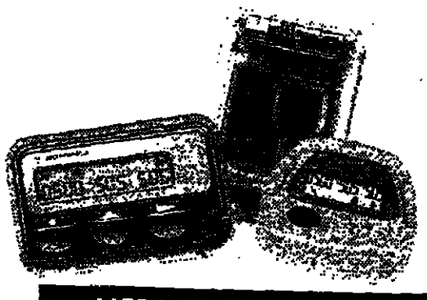

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MERCURY

Nuclear link with France 'stronger'

Rebecca Smithers
Political Correspondent

BRITAIN and France yesterday announced plans to "deepen" their co-operation on nuclear weapons, as John Major endorsed President Jacques Chirac's decision to conduct tests in the South Pacific.

The tests now threaten to overshadow the forthcoming meeting of heads of Commonwealth states in New Zealand in 10 days time, which Mr Major will attend. Last night Australian foreign minister Gareth Evans attacked the tests in a speech in London.

The plans for closer nuclear co-operation were announced in a joint statement at the end of the two-day UK summit which mapped out other areas for "global partnership", notably defence procurement and fighting terrorism and drug trafficking.

But the two countries were out of step on monetary union. President Chirac made a robust defence of his country's decision to opt for a European single currency as Mr Major restated Britain's determination to "wait and see" over the issue.

President Chirac insisted that France would meet all the conditions required to meet the 1999 timetable, and said Britain could not stand on the sidelines.

"I believe the single currency is a positive thing for France. It will enable France to battle against unemployment and maintain social cohesion," he said.

But Mr Major said: "The British position is well known. It has not changed since I set it out clearly in the Maastricht negotiations when I obtained for Britain the right to opt out of a single European currency."

Pressed for his general view on Mr Major's Eurosceptic policy, President Chirac replied: "I don't know what Euro-scepticism is. It is a fad. There are areas in which France and the United Kingdom have a somewhat different approach. We discuss these differences quite equably and openly and it is not a heavy cross to bear."

Mr Major and Mr Chirac also said that the former Dutch prime minister Ruud Lubbers would have their "strong support" if he became a candidate for secretary-general of Nato after the forced resignation of Willy Claes in a Belgian bribery scandal. The name of Britain's Trade Commissioner, Sir Leon Brittain, had been floated.

Hugo Young, page 9

Peer moves to scupper sale of Greenwich naval college

David Fairhall
Defence Correspondent

ADMIRAL Lord Lewin has entered the controversy over the Royal Naval College at Greenwich by proposing that a new trust take control of Wren's masterpiece instead of the Ministry of Defence.

The proposal comes two weeks before bids to acquire the 18th-century complex by the Thames in south-east London must be submitted to the MoD's estate agents.

The proposal amounts to a pre-emptive strike by the former chief of the defence staff to stop the buildings being sold off to the highest bidder.

Lord Lewin's most immediate interest is as chairman of the National Maritime Museum's trustees. The museum, standing opposite the college in Greenwich Park, would like to add the college's Painted Hall to its public galleries.

His proposal, in a Lords speech last night, has the support of English Heritage and the local planning authority. The MoD and the Department of National Heritage, which now pay for maintaining the college buildings, are unlikely to respond before the November 15 deadline.

Lord Lewin's proposal is that a preservation trust — perhaps called the Royal Greenwich Trust — with a board of commissioners appointed by the Queen should be formed as a charity to take a 150-year lease on the college buildings instead of the MoD.

The heritage department would continue to pay for external maintenance. Other funds would come from renting the accommodation, and perhaps the National Lottery.

Campaigner for more liberal drug laws concedes Short was wrong to stray outside brief

'Would any of the great reform programmes have got off the ground if politicians displayed such cowardice? Would no one have dared tackle slavery for fear of being unpopular?'

Paul Flynn, Labour MP

Clare Short . . . faces the problem of squaring shadow cabinet responsibility and her radical past PHOTOGRAPH: E HAMILTON WEST

'Political cowards' anger MP

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

THE leading MP campaigning for more liberal drugs laws yesterday said political debate had been degraded in Britain as political parties cowered in front of the "ignorance and prejudice that is the tabloid press".

The protest by Paul Flynn, Labour MP for Newport West, followed the weekend call by Clare Short, shadow transport secretary, for a debate on cannabis decriminalisation.

But while claiming Ms Short had erred in her Sir David Frost interviewby speaking outside her new ministerial brief, he said politicians in this country were "suffering an epidemic of cowardice in the face of the polls and tabloid journalism.

"One hundred years or so ago, would any of the great reform programmes have got off the ground if politicians had displayed such cowardice? Would no one have dared tackle the subject of slavery for fear of being unpopular?"

Mr Flynn said seven Tories in parliament — including Henry Bellingham, Alan Duncan and Teresa Gorman — supported his drug reform group calling for a royal commission on drugs law. He said privately as many as 20 Labour MPs supported the aims of his group. However, politicians play the game as assiduously as the media, so creating a political debate that dares only rarely to stray from the centre ground.

In the shadow cabinet, some — including supporters of legalisation — argued that Ms Short simply had to accept the disciplines of collective responsibility, particularly in areas where the party has clear policy, such as soft drugs.

"It is not about stifling free speech. It is the only practical way to conduct cabinet-level politics," one said.

Sir David Frost appears to have caught Ms Short off guard on an issue she had not foreseen. But she also faces a wider problem of whether or not she is going to deny her own radical past.

One shadow cabinet strategist argued: "Someone, and quite urgently, needs to take her through her press cuttings and work out what other traps may be sprung on her by interviewers. She has got to work out what she is going to say now about some positions she had in the past."

MPs also pointed out that Ms Short may have been praised for her courage and honesty in many rightwing leader columns and newspaper profiles — including in the Daily Telegraph and Daily Mail — but the same newspaper editors had led their Monday morning papers with stories of Labour in chaos over her call for decriminalisation. They also pointed out that Labour's carefully prepared campaign on the Government's "lurch to the right" had been blown off the airwaves by the Short affair.

Labour officials also argued that the party's opposition to the legalisation of soft drugs was not caused by a neurotic fear of the polls, but followed detailed examinations of its impact — including one by Mr Blair, a former shadow home secretary — showing that "if you make cannabis legal, you will increase the supply, reduce the price and increase the usage".

Leader comment, page 8

Legalisation 'creates problems, it does not solve them'

Sally Weale on two sides of a debate

TWO years ago Keith Hellawell, chief constable of West Yorkshire police, called for an open debate on the legalisation of drugs, and came in for the same sort of flak that has bombarded Clare Short over the past 48 hours.

His appeal in itself illustrated a dramatic change in attitudes among the police. Since then, however, as chairman of the Association of Chief Police Officers' drugs committee, he has come down against legalisation: "The bottom line is that legalisation does not appear to be the answer," he said yesterday. "It does not solve the problem. It creates more problems." But he wants the debate to continue.

The pro-cannabis lobby has gained support from unexpected quarters. In America, Richard A. Posner, chief judge in the Court of Appeals, called for marijuana to be decriminalised as the first step of a broader repeal of the drug laws. His sentiments have been echoed by Raymond Kendall, head of Interpol, and senior figures in the criminal justice system such as Lord Woolf have acknowledged that it is time to consider controlled legalisation.

In the political world there has been unlikely support for drug legalisation, including from Alan Duncan MP, parliamentary private secretary to the Conservative Party chairman Brian Mawhinney. Mr Duncan advocated legalising soft and hard drugs in a book published this year.

The official Conservative line, like that of Labour, is firm opposition to any relaxation. Last year the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, increased the maximum fine for possession from £500 to £2,500. The Liberal Democrats have called for a royal commission to look at decriminalisation.

For the police, Mr Hellawell quotes research from America which suggests that heavy use of cannabis over a long period can cause throat cancer. The pro-legalisation lobby argues it is less harmful than smoking or alcohol, and a British Medical Association survey last year found 75 per cent of family and hospital doctors wanted cannabis available on prescription for therapeutic purposes.

A thousand people every year are sent to prison for possession of cannabis. Among the most recent was Graeme Steel, the 29-year-old son of former Liberal leader Sir David Steel, who was jailed for nine months last week for growing cannabis with an alleged value of £30,000.

Advocacy curb outflanks Nolan

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

MPS are to be banned from tabling written questions, early day motions, amendments to legislation, oral questions or sponsoring private members' bills on behalf of any outside interest for which they are paid as a consultant.

They are also unlikely to be asked to serve on standing committees if they have an outside consultancy relevant to the bill being examined by the committee.

They will, however, be allowed to speak in debates and vote on issues in which they have a paid outside interest.

The partial ban on paid advocacy, to be recommended by a Commons select committee, goes further than recommendations of the Nolan committee's report on standards in public life, which simply called for a ban on MPs holding multi-client consultancies, such as with professional lobbyists or PR firms.

Tory MPs on the select committee preparing a response to Nolan's recommendations argued that a ban on advocacy, backed up by a new quasi-judicial and independent parliamentary commissioner on standards, would address the fundamental source of public concern over MPs' conduct. The claim is that it draws the sting of controversy from the remaining permissible consultancies, which will only involve MPs giving general advice to a company, or providing specific guidance on the workings of parliament.

Many Tory MPs will also argue that the wide-ranging advocacy ban, likely to extend to private lobbying of ministers, negates any need for MPs to be obliged to disclose the financial value of their outside consultancies.

The select committee's report will be published tomorrow or on Thursday. On the headline issue of disclosure of the value of MPs' consultancies, the committee will split on straight party lines, with the Tories opposing and the Liberal Democrats and Labour supporting.

The advocacy ban — which does not have the support of the Liberal Democrat committee member, Robert Maclennan, who wants full disclosure of MPs' earnings — is certain to be agreed in a key Commons vote next Monday.

Tory MPs feel they may win the key vote on disclosure of MPs' earnings, to be debated at the same time, because some older Labour MPs will absent themselves. A number of Ulster Unionists MPs are also likely to miss the vote.

Civil servants warned on leaks as ethics code is launched

David Hencke

CIVIL servants were reminded yesterday by Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, that they will be sacked if they leak confidential documents to the press or the Labour Party.

His warning came at the launch of a new Civil Service ethics code, and guidelines restricting former Government ministers accepting jobs, in line with the recommendations of the Nolan committee.

Sir Robin, whose reminder follows a recent spate of leaks, mainly to the Guardian, warned that leaking of information was a "disciplinary matter" and could and had led to dismissal. The code, coming into force on January 1, gives civil servants the right of appeal to a Civil Service commissioner if they believe they are asked to act in illegal, improper or unethical ways. It also warns against leaking information, misusing their position of confidence or frustrating policies or actions of government.

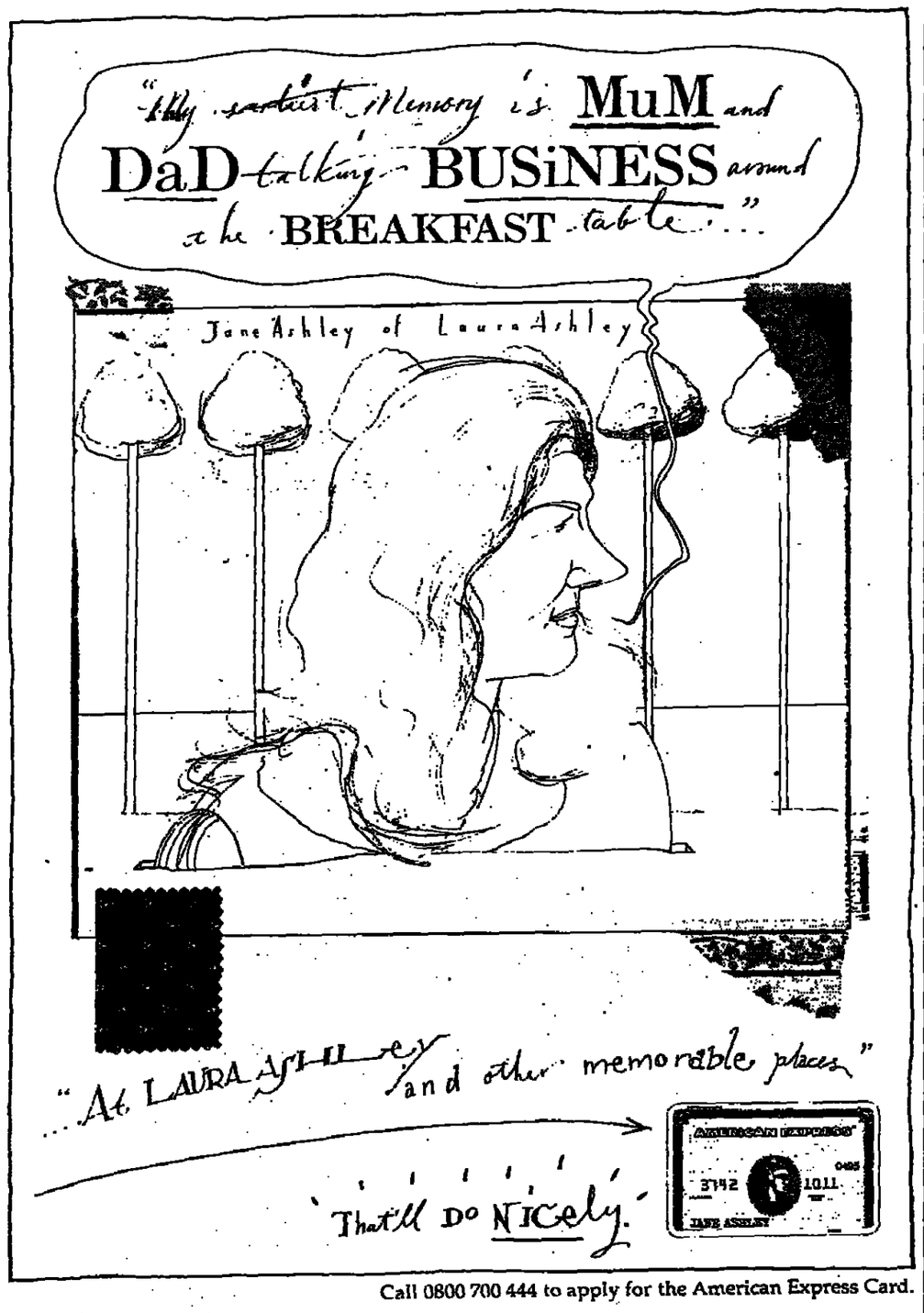
The new guidelines also lay down a three-month ban on Cabinet ministers taking jobs after leaving government. In other cases the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments will examine if they should be barred from taking jobs which could cause "justifiable public concern" through their knowledge of competitors' secrets or unannounced government policy.

Roger Freeman, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, also announced that, from April 1, special advisers would be expected to sign new contacts restricting their right to obtain immediate employment with companies. At present there are no restrictions, but Nolan recommended a ban of up to two years in certain cases.

TODAY IN PARLIAMENT

House of Commons: Health questions. PM's questions. Disability Discrimination Bill, Lords amendments. Proceeds of Crime (Scotland) Bill, Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Bill, Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Bill, Criminal Procedure (Consequential Provisions) (Scotland) Bill, all stages. Statute Law (Repeals) Bill, all stages. Law Reform (Succession) Bill, remaining stages. Private International Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, remaining stages. Civil Evidence Bill, remaining stages.

House of Lords: Criminal Injuries Compensation Bill, report. Wild Mammals (Protection) Bill, committee.



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- Ward off mosquitos
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- Stop a nose bleed
- Get rid of flatulence
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- Cure earache
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- Relieve athlete's foot
- Dissolves excess mucus
- Reduce haemorrhoids – overnight
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- Prevent splitting nails
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- Increase secretion of digestive juices
- Relieve chronic bronchitis.

Did You Know

- People in the South of England use twice as much garlic as those in Northern France
- In the First World War the British Government offered one shilling per pound of garlic grown as it was used to prevent wounds from turning septic
- Garlic does not interact with prescription medicines
- Boil garlic to remove the odour
- Garlic planted in November gives bigger cloves
- Garlic was used as a medicine by the Egyptians, Babylonians, Greeks, Chinese, Vikings, Indians and Romans
- Verrucae can disappear if covered with a thin slice from a garlic clove for one week
- Garlic can easily be grown in pots and window boxes
- In Switzerland garlic appears in the official drug guide
- Dr Albert Schweitzer used garlic to treat cholera and malaria.

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Week of clashes triggers security crackdown

Police fight 'war' in French suburbs

Alex Duval Smith in Villepinte

CELINE, aged five, stands hip-high to a police officer. She lives in this troubled Parisian suburb near Charles de Gaulle airport, and she knows that what sits on a police officer's hip is a Manhurin revolver.

Yesterday, in the courtyard where she and her friends were playing, the first signs were visible of the virtual state of emergency the French government is imposing on 1,300 troubled suburbs where 6 million people live.

After a week of clashes between youths and police throughout France, the interior ministry launched a new security plan yesterday. The children of Villepinte, on All Saints' holidays, were grappling with an addition to their vocabulary arsenal: the "fusil Flash Balls".

"It is a gun which fires rubber bullets," Céline said. "But I can't see how a rubber bullet could hurt anyone." Five hundred of them are being distributed to police forces, along with bulletproof vests for constant use, faster and more unmarked cars and 2,500 military reinforcements.

Céline's mother Annie, aged 25, was unsure whether she approved. "Obviously the new measures are not for the benefit of Céline and I'm not sure to what extent they will deter young delinquents. To me, seeing a policeman armed for Bosnia, is just plain frightening," she said.

But only yards away, a burnt-out Peugeot 104 was standing in the bus lay-by, as much as to say: Welcome to Fontaine Mallet — the Villepinte zone where police walk in fear. On Sunday, six youths threw stones and bricks at police officers. Yesterday morning, six were arrested, carrying a box packed with empty bottles, rags and white spirit — ingredients for Molotov cocktails.

Violence has been flaring on French housing estates since the beginning of last week, when youths smashed up several trams in Strasbourg. The authorities responded by posting soldiers armed with machine-guns in every carriage — a move inspired by the "Vigipirate" anti-terrorist plan in which troops have been sent to tourist areas.

Last weekend there was rioting in five Parisian suburbs, including the notorious Mantes-la-Jolie where a policeman was wounded in a shoot-out after his colleagues carried out an identity check on five youths.

In Villepinte, feelings were running high among a group of young men lining the entrance to one of the area's six-storey blocks of flats. "We've heard that the policeman in Mantes was ambushed. That's not good. But the guy who did it will get at least 20 years, whereas a cop who shoots a young guy just gets transferred," one said.

Police unions have given a mixed welcome to the security plan announced on Sunday by Jean-Louis Debré, the interior minister. The union representing most plain-clothes police has welcomed it, whereas spokesmen for uniformed officers are sceptical.

Jacky Viallet, secretary-general for the Fédération Autonome des Syndicats de Police, most of whose members wear uniform, said: "These measures are just aimed at the effects of suburban problems, not the deeper causes such as drugs and a thriving parallel economy, which in some cases is linked to Muslim fundamentalist activities."

He said the clampdown could be perceived as provocation at a time when it is becoming increasingly unclear who is "the enemy" — a term used by Mr Debré in reference to measures taken against alleged fundamentalist groups.

There are allegations that the bomb attacks in France since the summer have been perpetrated by teenagers of North African origin whose identity with the Muslim faith has been manipulated by Algerian fundamentalists. But the riots in the past week appear unrelated to terrorist activity or even to overt racial tension.

To confuse matters further, a bomb which exploded outside a suburban college last Thursday was said by police to have the same hallmarks as those which were used in terrorist attacks this year. Police believe it was planted by a disgruntled pupil, the implication being that the perpetrator used bomb-making instructions circulated by Algerian fundamentalists but did not identify with the terrorist cause.

Increasingly, a picture is emerging of a country whose disaffected youth are at war with the status quo of their living conditions, including unemployment rates which reach 50 per cent in the worst areas.

Jean Espitalier, a police sociologist studying suburban violence in the Paris region, said: "We are dealing with young people who have nothing to lose. Some — and it is hard to quantify them — have a 'cause' such as fundamentalism, and others have entered a crime spiral linked to drugs or petty delinquence."

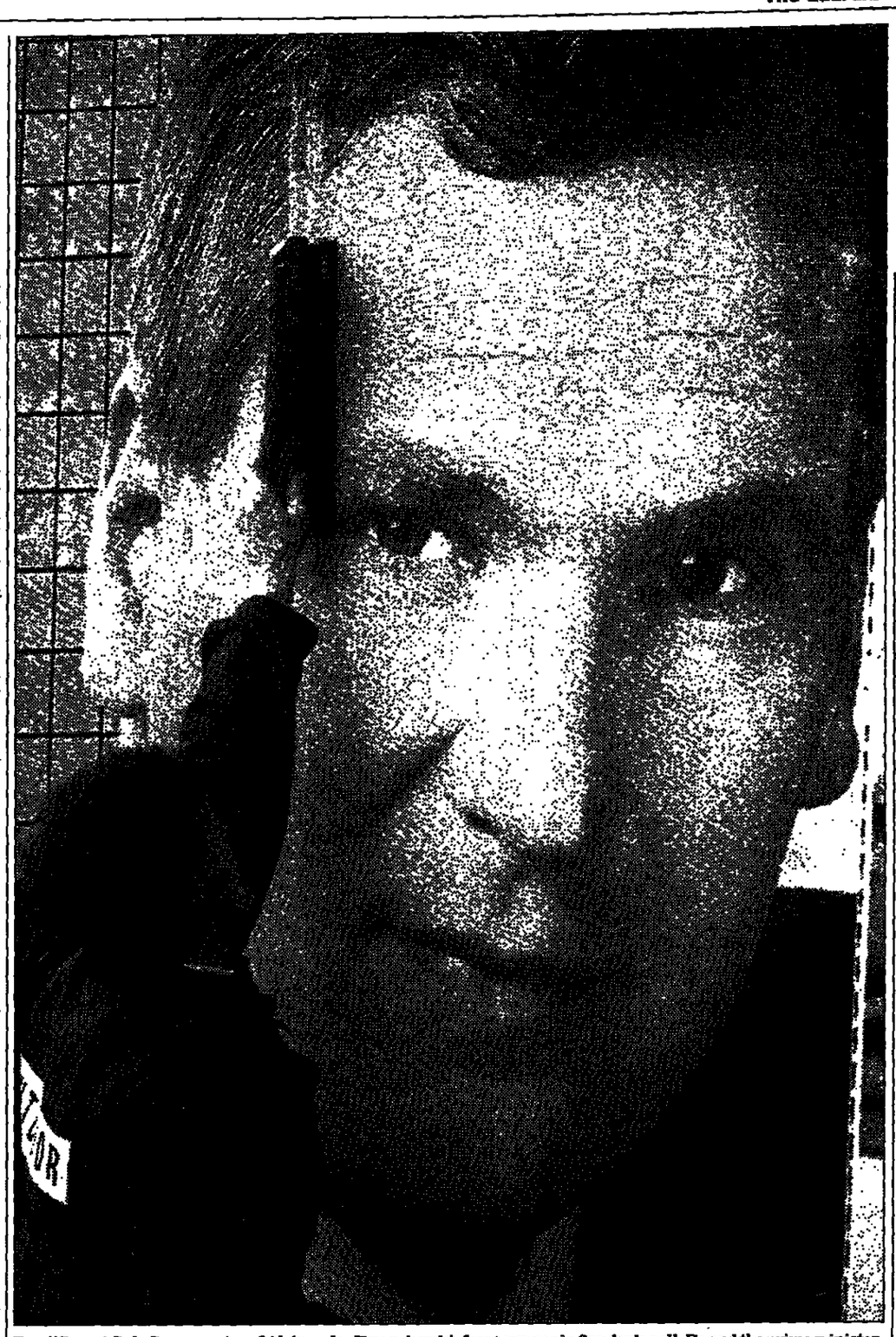
In contrast to the interior ministry clampdown, President Jacques Chirac told French television viewers last Thursday: "We must first of all try to create an economy, work, employment [in the suburbs]. Little by little, public order will install itself."

No tobacco after killing

THOUSANDS of French tobacconists closed for two hours yesterday afternoon as a mark of respect for a colleague who died after an armed attack in a violent Paris suburb, writes Alex Duval Smith.

Nearly all of Paris's "tabac" counters and thousands of others around France closed during the funeral of Claude Desaintjean. He was shot in the stomach and head when two men robbed his café-tabac in Sartrouville last Monday.

André Perset, a spokesman for the tobacconists' federation, said: "Six of our colleagues have died in armed attacks in the last three years. We want police to patrol our outlets. We are increasingly being asked to sell fiscal stamps and car tax discs, which means we have large sums of money in our tills."



Facelift . . . A Pole fixes a poster of Aleksander Kwasniewski, front-runner in Sunday's poll. He and the prime minister, Jozef Oleksy, yesterday rejected allegations of financial impropriety by their wives PHOTOGRAPH: CZAREK SOKOLOWSKI

Walesa gains on main rival

Matthew Brzezinski in Warsaw

WITH less than a week to go before Poland's presidential election, the incumbent Lech Walesa has emerged, after a sluggish start, as the main threat to the reformed communist front-runner, Aleksander Kwasniewski.

According to the latest surveys, Mr Walesa is well-placed to finish second in the November 5 ballot. Under Polish electoral regulations, that would entitle him to dispute a run-off against Mr Kwasniewski.

The young and charismatic chairman of the ruling Democratic Left Alliance is the only leftwing candidate and has led polls from the outset of the campaign. He is widely expected to win the first round of voting.

But Mr Walesa is fast closing the gap. His 27 per cent backing is only six points short of Mr Kwasniewski's and is three times that of his nearest rival for the second round position, where fragmented anti-communist forces would probably unite around him.

The president's strong showing has taken everyone by surprise. "People laughed when Walesa announced he would run," said Andrzej Roman, a columnist at the Warsaw daily SM. "But if there's anything we've learned, it's to expect the unexpected with Walesa."

His comeback has been accomplished without the support of any important political party. His traditional constituency, the fragmented centre-right groups that evolved from the Solidarity opposition movement he led, refused to back him.

Faced with a dozen rivals from his own camp — including popular figures like Jacek Kuron, the former dissident who spent nine years in communist jails — Mr Walesa launched his campaign with just 5 per cent backing.

But the president rose to the challenge. "He showed voters that they don't have to like him or even trust him to see that he is the best suited candidate to beat Kwasniewski," Mr Roman said.

Gaullists to defy unions and cut welfare benefits

Paul Webster in Paris

A REDUCTION in welfare benefits and heavier social security levies will be recommended to the Gaullist-led government today despite the risk of uniting trade unions, doctors and hospital staff against President Jacques Chirac.

Increased health charges expected to be approved by the cabinet in a fortnight could fall most heavily on the poor while contribution rises will hit middle class voters.

Reforms are likely to be so unpopular that the president may force them through by decree after a parliamentary vote of confidence. Austerity measures are part of an economic about-turn by Mr Chirac, whose promise last week to cut budget deficits to meet European Union monetary targets, rather than pursue inflationary policies, has strengthened the franc.

"My plan for the social security system will be courageous and ambitious," the prime minister, Alain Juppé, said last week. A secret report is to be published today on the threatened welfare network, the mismanagement of which has added to government troubles over violence in depressed suburbs, a public sector wage freeze, university unrest, international protests against nuclear tests and a bungled hunt for Algerian terrorists.

Changes are expected in pensions, family allowances and the national health service to avoid the welfare network going bankrupt. In the report prepared by the welfare system's general secretary, Jean Marmot, the government has been told that painful measures will have to be taken to absorb a deficit of about £8 billion this year.

As trade unions met yesterday to discuss action that could reinforce civil service unrest over a pay freeze, government officials said sacrifices would have to be made by all wage earners.

● A French court yesterday rejected a lawyer's request to sue President Chirac in a controversy over a flat he has been renting from a subsidised housing company.

Rift on Euro-currency opens up in Bonn

Ian Traynor in Bonn

GERMANY'S first political battle over the Deutschmark and a single currency erupted yesterday after the flagging Social Democrat opposition broke the political consensus on European policy and questioned the desirability of the Euro-currency.

The government accused the SPD opposition of cheap populism and of throwing into doubt the prospects for European integration.

The row represents the opening shots in what looks certain to be the dominating political issue in the country until the 1998 general election. The poll will coincide with the closing stages of the timetable for European monetary union (EMU).

Germany's foreign minister, Klaus Kinkel, launched his attack on Rudolf Scharping and Gerhard Schröder, the Social Democrat leaders, after they broke suddenly at the weekend with the prevailing consensus.

"At last we Social Democrats have found a national issue again," crowed Mr Schröder, aware that his party is in dire need of a popular campaigning issue after 13 years in opposition, but also that the sensitive currency issue could scare the chancellor, Helmut Kohl.

Mr Schröder predicted a "huge controversy" over EMU, describing the single currency as "monopoly money".

Mr Scharping, the SPD's leader, said it would be wrong to "give up the German mark for some idea that does not in the end produce economic or monetary stability".

Mr Schröder's acute, if populist, political antennae are telling him that he may be on to a winner by seeking to mine a rich seam of public anxiety over forfeiting the mark.

An opinion poll yesterday in the business newspaper Handelsblatt showed that two out of three Germans were against losing the mark. Those wanting to keep it were 6 per cent up on a similar poll in June.

The government yesterday returned to the offensive, asserting that the Euro-currency would bring "all Europeans" more growth, employment and prosperity.

Reiterating the government line that a failure to proceed towards monetary union would thrust Europe into the chaos and mayhem that accompanied Hitler's rise to power, Mr Kinkel predicted "a regression into protectionism behind national barricades, a regression to a Europe of the 1930s".

He insisted, despite contradictory government signals in the past few weeks, that Bonn would stick to both the timetable and the economic criteria for EMU.

"I understand many people's worries," Mr Kinkel said. "But these worries are really unjustified. The government will not sacrifice the stable German mark for a softer European currency."

World news in brief

Rwandan rebellion grows

A YEAR after one of this century's worst genocides, hardline Hutu propaganda in leaflets and through clandestine radio broadcasts is a sign ethnic slaughter in Rwanda may not be over.

Security analysts say a rebellion by Hutu gunmen based in eastern Zaire is gaining momentum with commando-style raids, the mining of roads, sabotage and assassinations.

The rebels are drawn from 30,000 soldiers and militiamen loyal to Rwanda's Hutu government, who fled with 2 million refugees into Zaire, Burundi and Tanzania when Tutsi-led rebels seized power in July last year.

From cattle rustling and extortion, the rebels have progressed to targets such as pylons. United Nations observers say they have struck 50 times inside Rwanda this month, claiming an equal number of lives. — Reuter.

100 lashes for Filipino maid

A Filipino maid, Sarah Balabagan, was sentenced to 100 lashes, a year in jail and deportation from the United Arab Emirates yesterday on payment of £27,000 blood money to the family of the man she killed.

A defence lawyer, Mohammed al-Amin, said the 15 months Ms Balabagan has already spent in prison were expected to count towards the jail term. "I expect she will be freed within a few days," he said. — Reuter.

Nuclear justice

The International Court of Justice in The Hague began hearings yesterday on a United Nations application to decide whether nuclear bombs should in principle be banned in the same way as chemical and biological weapons, writes David Fairhall.

Blast injuries

An American relief worker, Marianne Holtz, lost her legs and another, David Lillie, was less severely injured when their car hit a land mine near a Rwandan refugee camp in eastern Zaire. — AP.

Boycott poll call

A white farmers' union, the Transvaal Agricultural Union, called in Johannesburg yesterday for a boycott of local elections, joining some tribal chiefs who have urged their followers not to go to the polls. — AP.

£180,000 returned

Erich Mielke, East Germany's longtime secret police chief, has been given back DM 390,000 (£180,000) authorities seized from him in 1990 as ill-gotten gains, a justice spokeswoman said in Berlin yesterday. The money was confiscated from Mr Mielke, aged 87, by East German prosecutors. — AP.

Kashmir attack

A rocket hit the house of a prominent separatist leader, Syed Ali Shah Geelani, in the troubled Himalayan state of Kashmir yesterday, extensively damaging the building, but no casualties were reported. — Reuter.

Guerrilla seized after 23 years

ONE of Latin America's most wanted guerrillas has been captured and returned to Argentina after 23 years on the run, officials said yesterday.

Enrique Gorriarán Merlo, aged 54 — pictured above in 1973 — was a founder of the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP), which fought against Argentina's military in the 1970s. In 1980, he engineered the assassination of Nicaragua's former dictator, Anastasio Somoza.

He was detained on Saturday in Mexico City, the Clarin newspaper reported. Mexican officials accompanied him as he was secretly flown to Argentina.

Nicknamed "Baldy", Mr Gorriarán Merlo broke out of a military jail in 1972.

In 1989 he led a disastrous assault on the La Tablada army barracks near Buenos Aires, in which 39 people died, and later escaped. — Reuter.

Liberal banned from poll accuses Kremlin aides

James Meek in Moscow

AS PRESSURE grew on Russian authorities yesterday to reverse the ban on the liberal Yabloko bloc from taking part in December elections, the movement's leader, Grigory Yavlinsky, accused Boris Yeltsin's circle of taking advantage of the president's illness to undermine the democratic process.

The supreme court may yet overturn the ban, which was made on an arcane technicality, and Yegor Gaidar, the former prime minister, confirmed yesterday that his liberal right-of-centre party, Russia's Choice, would pull out of the elections if Yabloko were not registered. But Mr Yavlinsky, who did not name those he accused, said his criticisms extended to presidential elections in June, where he is expected to be among the five front-runners.

He called Sunday's refusal by the central electoral commission to register Yabloko a "clear demonstration of how the authorities in Russia are preparing for elections".

He said: "Calculating on Boris Yeltsin's illness, the bureaucratic elite of his inner circle are preparing to introduce corrections in the future results of the elections."

Mr Yeltsin remained ill and inaccessible to visitors at the Central Clinical Hospital yesterday, four days after suffering a mild heart attack.

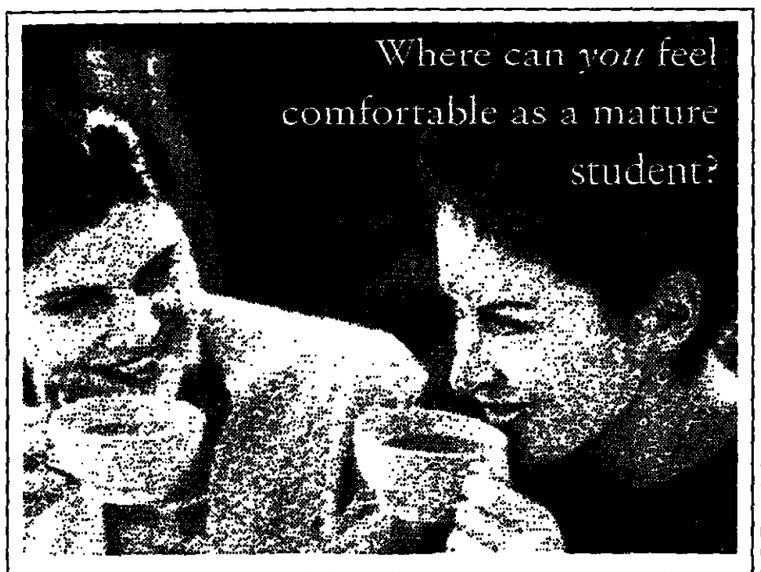
There was dismay across the political spectrum at the exclusion of Yabloko, the last bastion of liberal moderation.

"The Russian political arena would be poorer without such a popular leader as Yavlinsky," Mikhail Lapshin, leader of the Agrarians, said.

The prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, whose party, Our Home Is Russia, is closely tied to the administration, said the ban was "ill-considered and harmful".

Mr Gaidar said: "The elections would be turned into a political farce, and we will not take part."

Yabloko's lawyers believe they have a strong case against the electoral commission to take to the Russian supreme court in the next few days.



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Could George Graham really have believed that Hauge had slipped him £425,500 as a tip fee in respect of two transfers for which Manchester United had paid an aggregate of only £1.2m?

Richard Williams page 16

Perry to seek deal on bases

Kevin Rafferty in Naha

WILLIAM PERRY, the United States defence secretary, arrives in Japan today for talks about one of the most unpopular subjects in the country — the presence of 45,000 US troops, mostly on the southern island of Okinawa..

The abduction and rape last month of a schoolgirl aged 12, allegedly by three US servicemen, has triggered a wave of popular protests against the Americans. Okinawa's governor, Masahide Ota, will not sign contracts for compulsory use of land in his prefecture for military bases.

Mr Perry is expected to say that he is prepared to shift some of the bases from Okinawa to elsewhere in Japan, but the rest of the country seems equally unhappy about hosting more foreign troops and there are constant protests about dangerous and noisy night flights from the US airbase near Tokyo.

Okinawa represents a special case because it unwillingly hosts 75 per cent of the bases and about 26,000 of the troops. A tall, wire fence topped with barbed wire runs for mile after mile along the main highway of Japan's subtropical holiday island.

Mr Ota blames the bases for spoiling the economy. "When you get off the aeroplane at Naha, you see the military airbase next to the civilian airport. This damages our image," he says. "We want to change the image to a brighter one emphasising the beauty of the natural environment."

He adds that plans to expand a free-trade zone close to Naha port are at the mercy of the Americans because they control the seashore access. "It means that we cannot use the port or airport the way we choose."

The wire fence also runs around the port, where there are just a few vessels behind signs that say in English and Japanese: "US army facility. Unauthorised entry prohibited and punishable by Japanese law."

About 40 minutes drive north, in the small town of Yomitan, the mayor, Tokushin Yamauchi, condemns US troops for the "unforgiveable things they are doing here".

During his 22 years as mayor, Mr Yamauchi has fought an unremitting campaign, and succeeded in seeing the area of the base reduced from 73 per cent of Yomitan, to 48 per cent today.

"It is not healthy to have so much of our land in the hands of a foreign military base," he says.

Town and base live an uneasy co-existence. Slap in the middle of fields of sugar cane is the vast "elephant cage", a huge US communications complex, four storeys high and dwarfing everything else.

Locals say that when workers repaint the facility they have to empty their pockets, and have soldiers with rifles cocked at their backs.

In 1977, Mr Yamauchi wrote to the then US president, Jimmy Carter, to stop construction on land Yomitan wanted for an athletic field. He quoted from the US Declaration of Independence, and from Mr Carter's first presidential address, that "the strong must not oppress the weak and the dignity of the human being must be raised".

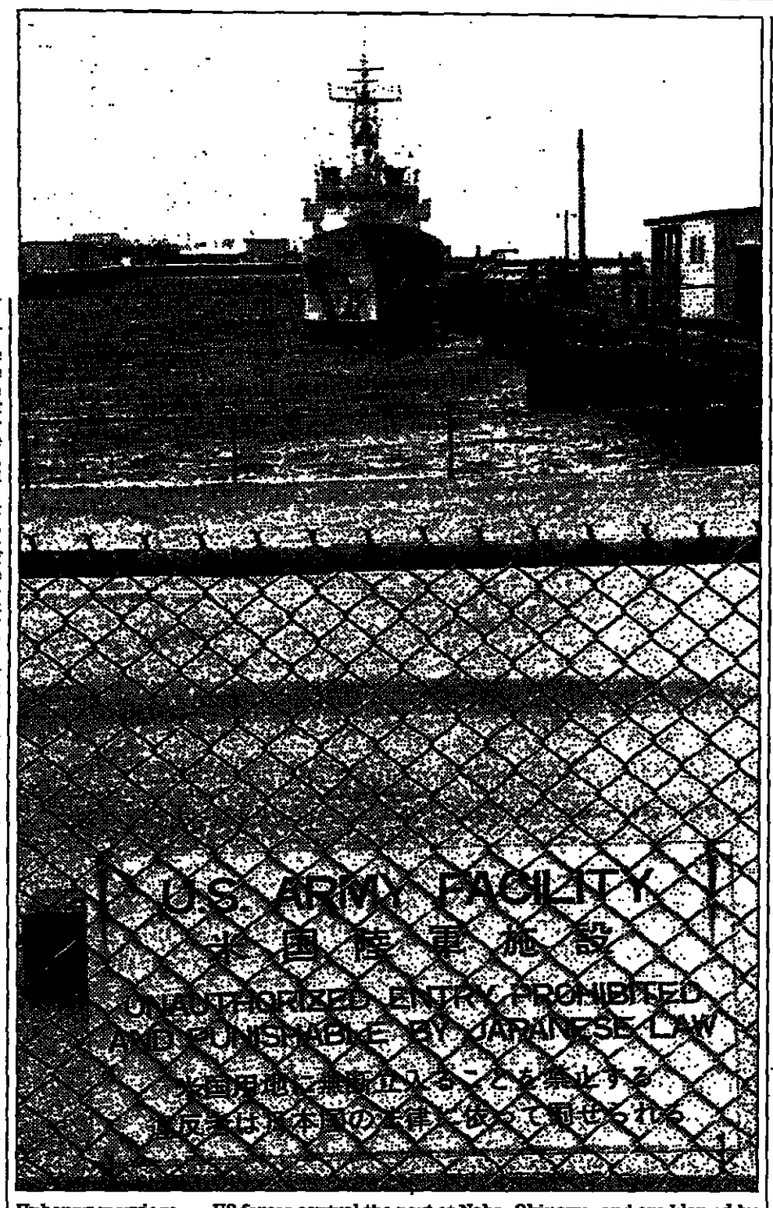
The Japanese government told Mr Yamauchi off for meddling in foreign affairs. Mr Carter did not reply, but stopped building work.

The governor says the bases "contribute less than 5 per cent to the local economy and employ fewer than 8,000 local people", mostly in cleaning and other low-paid jobs.

However, the US bases occupy 20 per cent of Okinawa's main island, much of it potential farmland or prime industrial and housing sites close to Naha city, as well as the port and key air space.

Mr Ota quotes another telling figure: "Okinawa is the smallest and the poorest of Japan's 47 prefectures, with 0.6 per cent of the whole of the country — but 75 per cent of US military facilities and troops are concentrated here."

● Judge Seishi Kanetsuki yesterday ordered the Aum Shinrikyo cult to be disbanded, the first formal step to its outlawing under Japan's law on religious organisations. In a statement last night the cult said it would appeal.



Unhappy marriage . . . US forces control the port at Naha, Okinawa, and are blamed by some locals for spoiling the economy cf55,6PHOTOGRAPH: KEVIN RAFFERTY

Palestinians claim expropriated site south of Jerusalem is theirs

New storm set to erupt over Israeli housing plan

Derek Brown in Jerusalem

ISRAEL is set to reopen the controversy over building Jewish homes in Arab areas of Jerusalem annexed after the 1967 war.

Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, the housing minister, has formally submitted plans to build 6,500 homes at Har Homa, south of the city. His ministry wants to start construction early next year.

The 450-acre site has already been expropriated at a cost of £35 million. Mr Ben-Eliezer says 8 per cent of the land is Jewish-owned. But Palestinian farmers and other property owners in the area say most of the site is theirs.

Earlier this year, the government made a rare concession to public and international criticism when it froze a decision to seize 130 acres of land for Jewish housing projects in Arab areas.

Since 1967, successive Israeli governments have approved huge building projects in East Jerusalem and its hinterland, annexed after the war. In recent years the housing initiative has led to a Jewish majority in the areas captured from Jordan.

The Har Homa site is within the municipal boundary of Jerusalem, which was drastically expanded after Israel's 1967 conquest. But Palestinians argue that it forms a natural hinterland to the villages of Beit Sahur and Sur Bahir, and is closer to the Arab city of Bethlehem than to Jerusalem.

The Israeli army is due to withdraw from Bethlehem before the end of December, handing over security powers to the Palestinian Authority in time for Christmas.

The leftist campaign group Peace Now has attacked the Har Homa scheme, accusing the government of risking its peace strategy. "Only someone completely cut off from reality can believe it is possible to build a giant project like this without fatally damaging the peace process," it said.

Meanwhile, the government has further angered Palestinians with new security measures to ward off any retaliation for the assassination in Malta last week of Fathi Shqaqi, the leader of Islamic Jihad.

Palestinians and other Arabs believe Israeli agents carried out the professional killing. Israel has declined to deny responsibility, while welcoming the death of the firebrand Islamist leader.

With an important regional economic conference under way in Amman, Israel has tried to avoid Arab condemnation by not closing its borders with the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank. Instead, it has imposed new restrictions. Only men aged above 35 may cross, and students and vehicles have been barred until further notice.

No permits will be given to Palestinians from the West Bank and Jerusalem to travel to Gaza.

● Warren Christopher, the United States secretary of state, taking a break from the Amman summit, held three hours of talks yesterday with President Hafez al-Assad of Syria. Officials indicated there had been little progress towards breaking the deadlock in Israel-Syria peace talks.

Amman economic summit, page 11

Poll rerun for Tanzanian city

Chris McGreal in Dar es Salaam

THE credibility of Tanzania's presidential elections finally collapsed yesterday as the chaotic vote in Dar es Salaam was scrapped and a new poll called.

But the opposition said the election was so riven with fraud that it should be annulled across the country and a coalition formed. International observers said it was unlikely they would endorse as free and fair Tanzania's first multiparty presidential and parliamentary election since independence.

The national electoral commission tried to rescue the poll yesterday by announcing a new vote next week in Dar es Salaam, home to about 10 per cent of Tanzania's nine million electors. It also ordered a second day of polling in the rest of the country yesterday for those who had not voted.

The chairman of the electoral commission, Judge Lewis Makame, admitted that many ballot papers had gone astray, that polling stations had failed to open, and that there was a popular suspicion of fraud, as there was when the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi won Zanzibar's election a week ago.

But Mr Makame failed to offer a convincing explanation for the problems. Instead he appeared interested in ensuring the electoral commission was not blamed for failing to distribute ballots.

Opposition parties dismissed Mr Makame's assertion that the worst problems were confined to Dar es Salaam and there was no need for a rerun of the vote elsewhere.

They wrote a joint letter to him saying: "The opposition strongly feels the elections up to this time have been rigged and therefore are not free and fair . . . In order to avoid problems a provisional government should be formed under the chief justice, with all parties, to organise new elections."

But some constituencies continued as if nothing had happened. Returning officers opened ballot boxes, held counts and released results overnight. Others held a second day of voting after angry Tanzanians besieged polling stations. Government and opposition monitors slept next to ballot boxes overnight to protect them from tampering.

International observers are now leaving. Many said privately that they were unwilling to endorse the legitimacy of the poll.

But Mr Makame, who was criticised for failing to accept foreign assistance in the election, thought the departure of foreign observers no great loss. "We shall miss their company," was his only comment.

Nigerian writer awaits verdict

Cindy Shiner in Lagos

JUDGMENT is expected today in the trial of the Nigerian minority rights leader Ken Saro-Wiwa for alleged complicity in the murder of four Ogoni chiefs who disagreed with his tough stand against the government and the Shell oil company in petroleum-rich Ogoniland.

Mr Saro-Wiwa, president of the Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People (Mosop), could be sentenced to death if he is found guilty. He was charged with 14 other people, nine of whom heard their verdicts yesterday. Among them, five received death sentences and four were acquitted.

The four chiefs were killed in May last year, allegedly by pro-Saro-Wiwa youths who accused them of taking bribes from government officials and thwarting the Ogoni movement.

Security has been stepped up in Ogoniland in recent weeks, and more people have been detained. Mosop offices in Port Harcourt were ransacked last week.

"Every village, every road junction has noticed an increased presence of battle-ready soldiers," a press statement by the Federation of Ogoni Women Associations said.

The accused have been denied access to ordinary courts or any right of appeal, and concern has mounted over the health of Mr Saro-Wiwa, who suffers from a heart condition. A civil disturbances special tribunal was convened in Port Harcourt by the military government to try the cases, and the detainees were held without charge for several months.

For several years, Ogoniland has been in turmoil. There have been Ogoni attacks on oil installations, and arbitrary arrests and killings by police summoned by the federal government and Shell.

Mosop wants Shell to pay the Ogonis £6.6 billion in rent, compensation and royalties for extracting oil for decades, damaging the environment and contributing little to local communities. Mosop also wants autonomy for Ogoniland.

Exacerbating the Ogoni problem has been a division in Mosop and ethnic clashes with neighbouring Andonis and Ndokis. The Ogonis accuse Shell and the government of stirring up an ethnic dispute.

Some critics of Mr Saro-Wiwa, a writer and environmentalist, accuse him of fomenting violence.

Shell stopped production in Ogoniland, a densely populated region in the south-east, in late 1993, after persistent attacks.

Britain and the United States threaten further sanctions if they see no moves towards democracy. A death sentence for Mr Saro-Wiwa could prompt London and Washington to freeze the military rulers' bank accounts and have Nigeria suspended from the Commonwealth.

To appease his critics, the military ruler, General Sani Abacha, recently commuted the death sentences of 14 alleged coup plotters and reduced the sentences of 30 others.

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Une entente cordiale?

John et Jacques: a friendship fraught with danger

JACQUES CAME to London and said "Bonjour, mon cher John". John replied that Jacques was "a breath of fresh air". They both agreed that Britain and France were Great Nations, John said that they were Global Partners, and then everyone had lunch.

Of course the Anglo-French summit has been a serious affair, invested with a sense of solemnity — not to mention fraternity — by the participants. And of course it is better to be friends and share a wider view then to huff and squabble over the fish or the lamb. Since the end of the cold war both countries have been driven, if not exactly closer together, at least into parallel attitudes of uncertainty about their new international role which offer a basis for more common ground. The issues for which the Prime Minister claims incipient partnership could not be more important, ranging as they do from peace-keeping to the UN via Africa and Bosnia. Why then does there seem to be an element of make-believe and a sense that it is still not quite a grown-up relationship?

It is being suggested that Mr Major's flirtation with France may offer a subtle way of upstaging Labour and squaring his own Eurosceptics in a pre-election year. He is entitled to some recompense for having condoned the French nuclear tests. Mr Chirac will do the decent thing at the Madrid summit and in the run-up to the IGC, paying increasing attention to the "specific problems which (he has already acknowledged) Britain faces". Let us ignore the irony of seeking to enlist France, the EU member which the British media most loves to hate, in a Euro-limitation exercise. It would be total illusion to calculate even on the margin that Britain can somehow erode the Franco-German relationship in this way and thus weaken the forward thrust of European unity. (This is slowing down but for more substantial reasons). There is more than the matter of those issues where France and Britain disagree. Vitally, the French know very well that to arouse German suspicions of a flanking movement across the Channel would be a diplomatic disaster. The pretensions of both Britain and France to a "global reach" with nuclear fingertips may encourage a degree of common enterprise. But in the end France wants to sit at a top table with more than two seats. Entente with Bonn remains the bedrock of their policy however much it makes sense to prevent that relationship operating to the exclusion of others. Any British formulation on partnership must also embrace rather than exclude.

Mr Major was poorly advised in being prepared not just to avoid criticism of the French nuclear tests but to defend Mr Chirac's decision to launch it, asserting that there was probably "no other choice". Mr Major has no way of judging the strength of the "expert advice" on which Mr Chirac claimed to rely. Nor should he brush aside the danger that these tests diminish the whole credibility of the nuclear powers' call for non-proliferation and commitment to a total test ban. For Britain to urge France to observe the calendar and avoid testing again before the Commonwealth Conference merely adds absurdity to injury. The issue is whether the tests are justified, not how to avoid embarrasing Mr Major next month.

Agreement was reached, we were told last night, on "deepening nuclear cooperation" yet without compromising the "independence" of each country's nuclear forces. This sounds like an attempt by nuclear addicts to join in defending their exceptional status if it is not just playing with words. It is a very poor basis for partnership in a worldful of problems for which nuclear weapons will solve nothing at all.

Short shrift on soft drugs

Ignore serious debate and shoot the messenger

IF AT first your policy fails, plough on. In no area of social policy is there less success than in drug control. Its failure has been documented by chief constables, drug advisory reports and social scientists. Yet the two main parties — for fear of being labelled "soft" — refuse to lift their heads above the dead-end furrow down which both continue to proceed. Thank goodness, then, that at least one shadow cabinet minister was able to state the stark truth: current drug policy is not working and it might be worth setting up a commission to see whether decriminalising cannabis would improve matters. Predictably, Clare Short has been firmly sat upon by her party leaders. Her remit is transportation, not hallucination. Party discipline has an important role, but so does disobedience when policy-makers refuse to face the facts.

Earlier this year government researchers set out the trends in a Home Office report. The numbers taking cannabis doubled in a decade. Half of all young people aged between 16 and 19 are now offered drugs. About four million took cannabis in 1991 (mostly aged between 16 and 29) and another two million amphetamines or LSD. A later report from Manchester University found 75 per cent of young people had been offered drugs and 50 per cent tried them. Drugs have become as familiar a part of youth culture as sex, loud music and expensive clothes. They're as familiar to girls as boys, working class as much as middle class youth.

So what's been the political response? Ministers are in disarray. Late last year three social ministers — health, education and the minister responsible for co-ordinating policy — agreed to switch the emphasis from enforcement to prevention in line with the drug advisory council's advice. A fourth minister, the hard hat at the Home Office, did the exact opposite. Michael Howard opted for tougher policies including a thumping fivefold increase in fines for cannabis users (from £500 to £2,500) and an instruction to the police to give offenders only one caution. The move threatens to use up every extra prison place the Home Secretary is supposed to be building for dangerous offenders. The U-turn was described by the Metropolitan Police Federation chairman — no softie — as "absurd". As the tough cop noted, refusing to look at the problem "won't make it go away".

Labour's response has been just as pathetic. All serious debate has been ignored. Worse still, it took a leaf out of the Tories's book and played the "soft-on-drugs" card against the Lib-Dem candidate in its disgraceful Littleborough and Saddleworth byelection campaign this summer. Hence its deep embarrassment over Clare Short's endorsement of a Lib-Dem call for a royal commission. Decriminalisation is not legalisation. Soft and hard drugs would be separated. The tobacco barons would not be able to muscle in. It would formalise what more enlightened police forces already informally apply.

The theatre workshop of the world

Britain's biggest export boost: Austen, not Austins

THE SERIAL is over but Pride and Prejudice Plc rolls on: videos to be sold (70,000 already), CDs and paperbacks to be packaged, and the series to be sold the world over: plus the book of the film. P&P will be a financial as well as artistic success for its £6 million outlay, a rare synthesis of high finance and high culture.

It wasn't perfect. Austen aficionados may quibble over the mushy ending, the understated irony and clipped characterisations. But it broke ground by narrowing the gap between classics and soaps. Some 10.1 million watched the last episode, a record for costume drama (and 2 to 3 million more when video recordings and the BBC 2 repeat are included). Nor can Beeb-bashers moan about the money. The taxpayer will get it back in spades.

P&P was not just an escape from crime, physical passion and the violence of most novels, but also an escape from the world around the author. The working classes barely rate a walk-on part (a bit like Upstairs, Downstairs with no downstairs) and no hint of that seismic change happening around her: the Industrial Revolution.

Curiously, the lifestyle of the eighteenth century gentry, which displayed contempt for the industrial revolution, is now playing a role in our recovery. Manufacturing industry has stagnated for decades. Employment is increasingly being generated by service industries. The Arts — everything from books and plays to TV and pop music — have a strong balance of payments surplus while manufacturing is in deficit. These days we export Austen rather than Austin. If Britain has any claim to be the workshop of the world, it is a theatre workshop rather than a manufacturing one. Making trade from disdain for trade has an irony that Jane Austen would surely appreciate.

Letters to the Editor

Thrown into a drug-induced frenzy

THE main thrust of Clare Short's statement was not to "call for the legalisation of cannabis", but merely to invite a serious debate, including the Church and the police, on this crucial issue. The legalisation of drugs (of any type) finds supporters in the whole range of the political spectrum (what else do Nobel Laureate Milton Friedman and Clare Short have in common?) because the arguments in its favour are overwhelming.

Cannabis in particular is freely consumed by large numbers of respectable people of disparate ages and social extractions who suffer no damage from this habit.

It is extraordinary that the sheer call for a debate on the issue should cause such a rumpus within the Labour Party and prompt such cynical exploitation by the Tories. The level to which the political debate has sunk should worry us much more than the consumption of cannabis.
(Dr) Marco Mariotti.
School of Economic Studies,
University of Manchester,
Manchester M13 9PL.

WE NOW have circumstances in which one in three male teenagers has broken the law. A lesser, but no less significant, percentage of young people regularly risk being propelled through a costly criminal-justice system for an offence where police responses remain widely diverse. Recent figures from the Police and Criminal Evidence Act show that police stop-and-search measures for suspected drug offences are resulting in widely varying proportions of subsequent arrests (four to one in Cambridgeshire, for example, but 10 to one in Bedfordshire).
Roger Howard.
Chief Executive, Standing Conference On Drug Abuse.
32-36 Loman Street,
London SE1 0EE.

EDWARD Pilkington could not have written a better article on the dilemma facing Dr John Marks and his former patients (The smack doctor, October 26). It has been estimated that the money spent on treating addictions would save the taxpayer millions in terms of crime, law enforcement and health expenditure, yet prejudices over the prescription of heroin, cocaine and amphetamines over-rides all objectivity.

Dr Marks is a world-class expert in his field who works with people whose prospects amounted to a premature and undignified death or a life in and out of prison.
(Dr) Adrian Garfoot.
Laybourne House,
Admirals Way, Marsh Wall,
London E14 9UH.

THE death rate among "junkies" is not "one in six". Whereas 30 per cent of smokers will die as a direct result of their habit, there is no authority which gives the death rate of illicit-drug users at more than five per cent. There is no "contrast" in the death rates of patients under Dr Marks's care: he cannot claim a superior survival rate. There is no support for his assertion that prescribing heroin "cuts the ground from under the illegal drug dealers' market". The quality of evidence for methadone is far superior to the support for heroin in Dr Marks's figures. Since April, many more patients have been treated. Prescriptions costs have also increased, giving the lie to claims that we are making treatment decisions merely on the basis of cost.
(Dr) Ben John.
Ian Hepworth.
Warrington Community Health Care Trust,
Warrington WA2 8RR.

I BEGAN to use heroin in 1963, illegally for perhaps a week, before obtaining a "script" from one of the (no more than half a dozen) doctors in London prepared to prescribe. The almost non-existent black market in the street price for heroin and cocaine had remained at £1 per grain. This was followed in 1968 by the development of drug-dependency clinics where we were expected to report for group therapy once a week and the prescription was sent direct to the chemist. I became drug-free in 1981 and last year retired as Mayor of Carlisle.
Colin Paisley.
Chair, Steven Boyd Trust,
37 Spencer Street,
Carlisle CA1 1BE.

IS DISHING out smack on taxpayers' money in the therapeutic manner of Dr Marks any more of an extravagance than subsidising at taxpayers' expense thousands of litres of ethanol-based drinks to lubricate official functions in British and many other so-called developed societies?
Daryl Barker.
Hondstong 26,
1964 LH Heemserk,
Netherlands.

Armenia's big dilemma

YOUR extensive coverage of the Western criticism towards the reopening of the Metsamor Nuclear Power Plant in Armenia (New Chernobyl feared as old reactors restart, October 26) omits some key points.

Several technical assessments of the plant conducted by US and European experts and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) have concluded that there are no technical obstacles to restarting the plant.

Their recommendations of certain safety improvements have been incorporated in the substantial technical refurbishment and upgrading of the plant.

Armenia has laboured for five years under an imposed energy blockade from Azerbaijan and Turkey, during which time the people of the country have endured extreme privation. The only energy source, the gas pipe-line running through Georgia, has been repeatedly sabotaged. Armenia was left with no option but to develop all its internal power supplies, one of which is the nuclear-power plant.

Armenia has been committed to democracy and market-oriented economic reforms since its independence, believing them to be the best guarantee of its stability and prosperity. No country could expect its people to build a new Jerusalem without electricity.
(Dr) Armen Sarkissian,
Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Armenia.
25a Cheniston Gardens,
London W8 6TG.

YOUR article reminds us how cheap are our brave Western promises of assistance when it comes to the implementation of them.

For years now the Armenians have endured winter temperatures of -20 degrees Celsius with only one or two hours of electricity per day. Who can blame them when, faced with the alternative of death by freezing or a possibility of radiation, they choose the latter?

Whether it is political ineptitude in getting the illegal blockade lifted, or the machinations of big business chasing lucrative contracts which caused this interminable delay, we have only ourselves to blame if anything goes wrong.
The Earl of Shannon.
Chairman, British-Armenian All-Party Parliamentary Group,
House of Lords.
London SW1A 0AA.

Oh la politique

THE Templeton Programme organised for Labour's Shadow Cabinet (Masters of arts, October 27) does not focus on "interpersonal skills, verbal skills and body language", as Lord Young seems to believe. Indeed, we do not tend to teach in this skills-focused area of management development. The programme we run is concerned with the management of change in government. It builds on our expertise, developed for a number of clients, with the management of change in large organisations.

In tailor-making this particular programme for the Labour Party, we have brought together a number of recently retired permanent secretaries and other senior Civil Servants, as well as the heads of major private-sector companies. The programme also involved leading experts on the process of the management of change. It focuses on the machinery of government, including the Public Expenditure Survey round, the work of agencies and providing leadership within departments.
Roger Undy.
Fellow & Programme Director,
Templeton College,
Kennington,
Oxford OX1 5NY.

SINCE Quebecois are so proud of their French roots, why don't they petition the French government to become another French colony? Then they may be subjected to the total contempt of French politicians for everyone else (including French people). And France may decide to use part of Quebec for yet more nuclear tests.

There are some benefits to being part of the British Commonwealth, after all.
Barry Morrell.
337 The Meadway,
Tilehurst,
Reading RG30 4NU.

IN THE Gallic tongue, *un camelot* is a seller of shoddy goods. Maybe the French are on to something.
Alan Fairbairn.
41 rue la Bruyère,
75009 Paris,
France.

Pain of childhood leukaemia

LIKE Jaymee, our son bore with enormous fortitude the years of often painful and frightening treatment for childhood leukaemia (Never give up, says leukaemia girl, October 26). Like Jaymee, he was not expected to survive — but he did. A little later than usual, because he was older than Jaymee when the cancer struck, he left home for university and the prospect of a future.

A year later he was dead, essentially of a late effect of the cancer treatment which had remained undiagnosed until too late because, as a cured ex-patient, he was lost in the chaotic NHS system which offers little cohesion and no continuity between paediatric and adult care, and between different specialties.

Eighteen departments in several hospitals had had input into saving his life as a "child with cancer" but, as an unknown young adult in a strange city, he had to start again with yet another set of doctors and blank case notes when he collapsed while away from home. I suspect that he is not the only "cured" and apparently healthy young adult to die unexpectedly because some vital aspect of their childhood cancer treatment remains locked away in yellowing paediatric case notes in a hospital basement.

For the increasing group of young adults who survive previously fatal childhood disease, protected funding is needed for the administrative aspects of ensuring survival.

NHS Trust hospitals must be tempted to pulp outdated paediatric records to save money, thereby destroying information which may be vital to the survival of the young adult and is of great importance to epidemiologists working on late effects of cancer treatment in childhood.

As Jaymee grows to adulthood, she is going to need this almost as much as she needed intervention from the anonymous donor who paid for her medical treatment this summer. It would be an awful waste — in every sense of that term — if she were to die later of a potentially curable late effect of the cancer treatment which was undiagnosed until too late because vital information had been destroyed to save money.
Name and address supplied.

Bomber's death-cell missive

THE campaign against John Lloyd, the Labour Party candidate for Exeter (Terror trial role haunts potential MP, October 27) is vindictive and based on dubious history. I was a friend of John Harris, the anti-apartheid activist who was executed in Pretoria on April 1, 1965. After the explosion on Johannesburg Station on July 24, 1964, I was among those arrested and interrogated by the Security Police. Following my release, I attended the Harris trial in the Transvaal Supreme Court and was present when Lloyd gave evidence against Harris (who had by then signed a full confession). I corresponded with John Harris in the death cell after his conviction and visited him regularly in Pretoria Prison.

John Harris bore John Lloyd no grudge and tried (I believe) to convey this to him — whether successfully or not I do not know. Lloyd was innocent of an act planned and executed entirely by Harris but found himself at risk of being charged as an accessory to an offence carrying the death penalty. He succumbed to unbearable pressure and went into the witness box.

John Lloyd was guilty of human frailty. But then, who isn't?
Maritz van den Berg.
Gwendolen Avenue,
London SW15.

Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a daytime telephone number. We may edit letters for clarity and concision. We regret we cannot acknowledge those we do not use.

After Austen

AS your sardonic leader (October 26) on the TV adaptation of Pride and Prejudice rightly says: the novel has been reduced to a paperback romance. What has been discarded is feeling, particularly the pain of unwanted, ineligible girls and the anxiety of their parents. Elizabeth Bennet presumes, however, without rancour, that she will not be pursued, as Mr Darcy knows full well that, as "catch of the season", he will.

My great-grandmother Martha Greenstreet was companion-secretary to Mrs Knight (Austen) of Godmersham. She would not have recognised the two well-coiffed and made-up women as J Austen subjects. She came to have her own tragedy, as Jane Austen briefly records — "Poor Mrs Smith".
Enid Minter.
20 Ridings Mead,
Chippenham, Wilts SN15 1PQ.

A Country Diary

SOMERSET: This record-breaking October, Apple Day was warm and bright. We selected a bag of crisp and succulent Ida Reds from the plentiful supply of English varieties at the orchard just around the corner and left the money in the tin. Publicity for Apple Day, organised by Common Ground, contains reminders of apparently perverse movements in the English apple market in recent years. Growers are paid £4,600 per hectare to grub up orchards through a scheme designed to reduce surplus. Small English orchards can hardly compete economically with larger French ones. You might think the decline was terminal. But the Countryside Commission now offers grants to support the restoration and maintainance of traditional orchards, and in Somerset the County Council has helped 350 growers plant 1,300 dessert and cider apple trees. So famous local names (Lambrook Pippin, Beauty of Bath, Yarlington Mill) may yet endure. A vigorous minority of local farm cider-makers survives, and on Apple Day some of them were celebrating their craft. Sutton Montis lies at the foot of the steep wooded wall of Cadbury Castle. The mullioned windows of the 17th century farmhouse face the castle and look out onto the wide farmyard and a strip of cider-orchard beyond. The big, open barn where the cows will spend the winter had been cleaned out and a trestle table placed in the middle beside some bales of straw. Crates of sparkling cider were in position and so was a venerable cider-mill. Floodlights were ready to illuminate the orchards after dark. There would be songs, children's games, storytelling and a tasting. An old tractor rumbled across the yard and reversed neatly into the barn. It would provide the power for the mill at the cider-making demonstration. The driver's wife was still at home preparing the feast based on apples and Cheddar cheese. We were sorry that it was time for us to go.

JOHN VALLINS

Diary

Matthew Norman

INTO the tetchy battle between two sitting Tory MPs for a newly merged London seat, there has ridden a titanic figure. It is the Baroness Thatcher. Officially, Lady T's position on the fight for Finchley and Golders Green — between Hendon South's John Marshall and Finchley's Hartley Booth — is one of strict neutrality. Meanwhile, last Thursday, she held her final 70th-birthday bash for 40 stalwarts who supported her as an MP. Oddly, although the do was purely for local activists in Finchley, it took place at the Hendon Hall Hotel in Mr Marshall's constituency. More oddly still, Mr Booth himself was not invited. "It was her choice of venue," says one party-goer, "and she was very much the hostess. She is a great admirer of John Marshall, and went round extolling his virtues." How very neutral. At the Thatcher Foundation, Miranda Grainger is coy. "We have been made aware of the selection battle, yes, but we don't want to say anything." But Lady Thatcher is clinging to her neutrality? "We really don't want to say anything at all." Ah, that old Thatcher reticence. The vote is tomorrow night, and we wish Mr Booth luck. He may need a miracle.

IN the Sun, Mr George Graham expresses distaste for greedy footballers. "When players on the Continent talk about earning £500,000," the former manager explains, "they mean that is what they actually receive." How shocking that these people shy away from income tax like this. Mr Graham, incidentally, was sacked by Arsenal and banned from football for a year for receiving £425,500 in "unsolicited gifts" from a Norwegian football agent — a sum he did not declare to the Inland Revenue until encouraged to do so.

THE new Book of the Month, Lord Woodrow Wyatt's 1976 classic The Exploits Of Mr Saucy Squirrel, has arrived a day before the new month itself. A rigid observer of the calendrical niceties, the Diary cannot publish a proper extract until tomorrow. However, we can start today with an aperitif from the introduction. "Mr Saucy Squirrel," it begins, "has an alert and enquiring mind. That is how he discovered a hoard of gold sovereigns he did not know were there at the time." Could this be autobiographical? Woody discovered a hoard of gold sovereigns himself, picking up columns worth £200,000 a year from his friend Mr Saucy Murdoch, plus an annual £95,000 from his job at the Tote. Woody, it goes on, "wrote this book for his daughter Petronella when she was seven, but his 12-year-old son Pericles" (yes, really) "enjoyed it too." Be we eight or 88, we too will enjoy it in the weeks ahead.

A CONTENDER emerges in the search for Britain's most amusing public-relations practitioner. Breaking Rocks Promotions has sent a booklet plugging a band called Johnny Zero & the London Angels. In the section entitled "Accolades", we learn that the single Pizza "was voted Best Promotional Single of 1993 by" . . . wait for it, "Canadian College Radio."

FISHERMAN Mark Ryland writes to the Camden New Journal. He is shocked at the report about "the fishermen who were supposed to have found a chicken's leg and thought it was some form of genitalia". Mr Ryland, one of those fishermen, is indignant on behalf of himself and a brother angler. "Matthew Gale and I know what genitals look like," he insists, "and we can assure you it was not a chicken's leg as you have wrongly printed. Therefore I would like an apology." The Diary supports him in this quest, and warns north London anglers to use nothing caught in the Regent's Canal as the basis for soup until further notice.

THIS report has appeared in the Saudi Gazette: "WEATHER: The weather forecast is cancelled today because of the weather. Whether we get the weather tomorrow depends on the weather."

Moving to the right, left and centre

Commentary

Hugo Young

FOR two days, two conservative European politicians have drunk from the cup of a new consensus. They opened a joint airforce command base, the politically correct mode of military sharing. They mutually assured deterrence against all nuclear protesters. They bear witness to the closest Anglo-French personal entente, albeit abruptly cobbled together since Georges Pompidou and Edward Heath unlocked the gate to Britain's entry into the European Community. Yesterday, they declared a triumph. Yet despite all this, the paradoxes are more impressive than the solidarity.

The first paradox concerns their states of mind. One of these leaders seemed frenetic, the other calm. One had been elected a mere five months ago, the other faces an election for which his chance of success currently rates at minus 30 per cent. Yet it is the one facing early oblivion whose double-handshake, that strangely intimate gesture, bestows the blessing of the experienced statesman upon a neurotic comrade whose term has six years to run.

John Major offers this benediction from a position steeped in further ambiguities. He sees France as his key foreign ally in the domestic project that now preoccupies him: coming back from the prospectively dead. Jacques Chirac, he thinks, can supply the Gaullist dose of political nationalism that he hopes will de-rail the European Union's 1996 Inter-governmental Conference. Since Chirac is, generically, a Gaullist, and since France is as opposed as Britain to one big item on the IGC agenda, the supplanting of national parliaments by the Strasbourg Tower of Babel, this is a little less fantastic than it would have seemed if attempted in the Mitterrand years.

But then Janus Major gets harder to read. While wishing Chirac well, he needs his economic policy to fail. As a conservative, he welcomes the austerity which, on odd dates of the month, Chirac keeps promising: but as a sceptic European, he welcomes the prodigality with which, on even dates, the French government keeps re-promising the popular economic favours that won it election, thereby making economic and monetary union less likely. For although Major is plotting his way towards a manifesto indication that the Tories will refuse to put sterling into a single Euro-currency during the life of the new Parliament, the preferred pre-condition is that such a currency should be aborted before it's born.

If France can't meet the conditions by 1997, when the countdown must begin, the currency is dead for the duration. Yet France has continued to insist its commitment is total, and the EU Finance Commissioner, another Frenchman, was in London yesterday reminding the British that their belief in a fading collective will for Emu was grossly optimistic. So Chirac, while central to Major's political strategy, is likely to prove as mercurial on this matter as he has on most others.

Earlier this year, for example, France favoured a minimal IGC. Believing little could be agreed, Paris circulated other capitals with the case for a short, fast conference concentrating on the easy, small points. This would have suited Britain, but has now been abandoned in favour of the German preference for addressing sterner challenges. Moreover, Chirac revealed in a speech last month that the French line on majority voting is quite different from the British. He will start the IGC in principle favouring fewer vetoes, and preserving vital national interests on a case-by-case basis. Major, by using imprudent words on television, disqualified Britain from adopting that pragmatic position nine months ago.

This is a mistake which the predecessor Major comes daily closer to resembling, Harold Wilson, would not have made. On substance, the prime minister may owe everything to Margaret Thatcher, but as a tactical manoeuverer it is the Labour leader she most detested whom her successor now most instinctively imitates. In his placing of party management above every other consideration, he recalls the disingenuousness which Wilson brought not least to the European issue. In 1974, Wilson pretended that the terms Heath got for Britain's entry were unacceptable. On the basis of a fake re-negotiation, followed by a referendum, he steered his party (temporarily) back into the European mainstream. In 1995, Major, under similar pressures, adopts the same tactic, now steadily making short-term concessions to the party's anti-Brussels faction for what he sees as long-term benefit: the prime element of which will be the Conservatives' return to power.

> Chirac revealed last month that the French line on majority voting is quite different

This suppleness is becoming quite a spectacle. First elected as a party manager, Major spent three years after the 1992 election demonstrating frailties in this task that came close to annihilating him. But now all is different. Consider the new magnanimity towards Norman Lamont. Lamont, Major's manager in the 1990 leadership contest, was expelled from office in 1993, and has spent much of the time since then badmouthing the leader. He was one of the chief goads prompting Major to put his head on the block last June. When Major won, Lamont's early exit from politics, blackballed from a new parliamentary seat, seemed certain. But the new unity prompts Downing Street to let the party know Major would like Lamont to be better treated. Even if this proves to be no more than words, their soothing quality attests both to the leader's desire to bury hatchets, and his confidence that he can now do so on his terms.

What these terms are is a more debatable question than it currently seems. The Labour Party yesterday opened a campaign designed to show that the Tories were moving fast to the right. With the brilliant subtlety for which our political leaders can always be relied on, the Tories, in the person of Mr Heseltine, countered with the sensational charge that Labour is moving hard to the left. This is each party's retort to the charge that its enemy is now in command of the centre ground. But it shows that, contrary to some recent analysis, Mr Major recognises this is still the ground he must be able credibly to say he occupies. There will be rightist noises, and the bashing of selected welfare and immigrant targets. But Major will, quite inevitably, strive to approximate to being all things to all voters, the task to which he is most suited. There are, after all, role-models from past and present. Harold Wilson, for example. And Jacques Chirac.

True cost of aubergines all year round

George Monbiot

CHAIRMAN Mao could scarcely have presided over such logistics. As one of our best apple harvests ever known rots on the ground, the autumn air shudders with lorries delivering out-of-season Granny Smiths from South Africa and lifeless Coxes from New Zealand. Potatoes are being flown in from Australia just as ours are being lifted from the ground; Kenyan beans are filling the shelves while British farmers are ploughing theirs back in. Heathrow airport was built on the market gardens that once fed London; now its traffic renders British horticulture void.

Such bedlam economics result partly from the low prices of air and road freight, which fail to reflect the costs they impose on human health, the environment, infrastructure and housing. But they also arise directly from the growth of the "multiples" — or chains of superstores. It is now becoming clear that their ascendancy is not the outcome of an untrammelled free market, but of something close to a command economy.

The rise of the multiples has been stupendous. Having annexed the food market, they are now sucking in many of the other functions of the high street and village shops — post offices, books and now, if Asda has its way, pharmaceuticals. All this, we are told, is a straightforward response to demand. These retailers have triumphed because their economies of scale and sound business plans have delivered cheaper products, more choice and more convenience. But the truth is that they would never have been able to establish their grip without systematic distortions of the planning system by friends in local and national government.

Impoverished councils routinely sell the multiples land which local people had been led to understand was not available for such development, for huge sums of money. The companies will then apply to the same local authority for planning permission and will invariably receive it. Objectors discover that, saving a few formalities, the deal has been secretly — and illegally — concluded before the planning process began; the planning agreement was included in the price of the site.

Elsewhere, the stitch-up can be even less subtle. Reasonably enough, a local authority is permitted to change its mind in favour of a development if the developer alters his proposal to offer some benefit to the community. A house-builder, for example, may incorporate some low-cost homes into an estate of executive mansions. But the principle of "planning gain" has been extended, on innumerable occasions, to deliver putative benefits somewhere else — the developer may offer to build a swimming pool on the other side of town, for example, or simply give the authority a million pounds. This practice, which the rest of us would recognise as bribery, is now so commonplace that most councillors seem to be unaware that it's illegal, and will boast about the amenities or the cash they've secured.

Just in case anything goes wrong, however, the Department of Environment's planning guidelines ensure that local objectors don't stand a cat's chance of defending their community from a determined developer. The developer has a right of appeal to the Secretary of State, while objectors do not.

The costs of these distortions are borne by all of us. The length of the multiples' supply lines, the outrageous demands with which they now confront producers, and their insistence on uniform produce all the year round, mean that horticulture in Britain is being driven close to extinction. The links between consumers and local producers, so important both to local diversity and to our sense of belonging, have been comprehensively broken. At the same time, the housing land we so desperately need is being swallowed up by developments we patently do not.

The multiples are efficient employers, which means that few people are needed to shift their goods. As we can only consume a certain amount of such products as food and pharmaceuticals, their gain is other retailers' loss. Small shops and street markets are less efficient employers, so one job created by the superstores will mean more than one job lost. There is also, of course, a world of difference between a self-possessed small shopkeeper's quality of employment and that of a "flexibly contracted" part-time checkout assistant. New developments, moreover, become economic hotspots surrounded by frozen wastes.

As these consequences accumulate, it becomes clear that the multiples make our lives more expensive, less convenient and poorer in choice. Were the costs they impose on society to be reflected in their prices, no one would visit them. But the distortions which permit them to exist mean that society is enslaved so that they might freely trade.

No smoke without ire

Tony Banks urges MPs to debate cannabis seriously. And below, **Howard Marks** and **Richard Stevenson** both conclude we need a legal trade

CLARE SHORT has once again proved that it's who says it rather than what's said. The setting up of a Royal Commission to examine the case for cannabis legalisation was advanced by me in the House years ago. Indeed, I have long advocated legalisation; but then I'm not a Member of the Shadow Cabinet.

There are two issues here. First, Clare sought to be elected to the Shadow Cabinet, and although "collective responsibility" might be a bit of a bore it is a price she knew had to be paid. But is she being carpeted now because of her breaking of that rule, or because of the issue she raised?

Secondly, it really is a mark of our absurd, anti-intellectual system that anyone who advances a controversial opinion or policy is treated as an undisciplined maverick. The situation is made that much worse when such views are claimed by opposing silly little politicians as evidence of a party's unfitness to govern. The response of Messrs Howard, Mawhinney and Heseltine was entirely predictable and acutely depressing. Save us from party hacks whose first and only thought is to score points rather than address the argument.

The issue of cannabis legalisation is being discussed exclusively outside Parliament — by public, press, police and the medical profession. Inside Parliament, a handful of MPs from all sides have tried to engender serious debate but are getting nowhere fast. Of course, there are differences of opinion, since no one can honestly claim to know the answers; but whereas the debate is being conducted in a civilised fashion in the country, in Parliament insult and hysteria predominate. The very mention of the subject causes the great majority of MPs to dive for cover. You couldn't get a fag paper between the policies of the Labour and Tory frontbenches on the issue.

Yet no other policy supported by both Government and Opposition alike has proved a greater failure then drug enforcement. Both here and in the US, governments are throwing vast sums of tax-payers' money at the problem, and all to no avail. More people than ever before are using drugs and the price is coming down. How much more failure can be tolerated before politicians decide a radical re-think is necessary?

At the moment there is no possibility of political movement. Both major parties seem terrified even to admit that something is not quite right. They use the same ridiculous macho langauge concentrating entirely on symptoms of drug abuse, not the causes. The Liberal Democrats, who were at least open-minded enough to call for a Royal Commission, are routinely rubbished by both Tory and Labour. LibDems are not "soft on drugs". They are doing what any rational political party should do: calling for a full-scale examination of the problem.

The so-called war against drugs is failing and cannot be won with present policies. Far better to legalise and control. Legalisation would eliminate most, if not all, of the criminal activity surrounding the supply. Legalisation of cannabis would, in my opinion, act as a deterrent to the move to harder drugs. Pushers have a vested interest in getting users on to ever harder drugs in order to hook them. The notion that legalisation of cannabis would automatically take users on to harder drugs is as credible as the argument that a glass of sherry is an invitation to alcoholism.

After all the silly fuss after Clare Short's unexceptional statement has died away, we will be back where we were. The last thing politicians and pushers want is any change in the current drugs regime.

Tony Banks is Labour MP for Newham North West

Short steps to sanity

THANK you, Clare Short. For each of the past 30 years, I have expected a declaration of the imminent legalisation of cannabis. Each year, I have been wrong. The canons of inductive logic compel me to believe I will carry on being wrong. But there is a case for growing optimism. There are more marijuana smokers of voting age than ever before. And a greater number of non-users are now aware of what cannabis is, its harmlessness, and the irrational objections to the abolition of its prohibition. A political leader prepared to admit to inhaling is bound eventually to emerge. To think that a man called Jack Straw would forget his grass roots . . .

There are plenty of advantages in legalising, or at least decriminalising, cannabis. Consumers will no longer need to use illegal sources. Prohibition-related crime (murder, violence, kidnap, theft and fraud) and its pathological consequences will disappear. It's very hard for a street dealer to continue his business without being busted, or being considered as some kind of sociopath.

It won't cost as much to get stoned. Today, the production, export, import, transport and distribution of cannabis carries the heavy cost of surviving government confiscation and insuring against infiltration by law enforcement.

Sufferers of asthma, glaucoma, epilepsy, cancer, constricted bronchioles, Aids, MS, migraine, pruritis and insomnia will be more likely to obtain relief. Nasty side effects caused by medically prescribed tranquillisers, sleepers, analgesics, and anti-emetics will be replaced by getting pleasantly stoned.

A sizeable and powerful portion of the electorate believe that the taking of all drugs (in which category they include cannabis but usually exclude alcohol, tobacco, tea, and any legally prescribed pharmaceutical product) is inherently immoral and that the rest of the population should abide by this ethic. Articulate and well-reasoned arguments have resoundingly failed to convince these anti-drug crusaders of the irrationality of their position.

The administrative agencies of all countries have self-protective vested interests in maintaining the mythology of the perils of cannabis use. Customs officers, policemen, coastguards, solicitors, barristers, judges, probation officers, prison officers, and ancillary secretarial staff directly benefit from the current prohibition. Powerful industrial groups such as the tobacco, alcohol, synthetic-fibre, pharmaceutical and fuel industries are terrified of competition from a legal cannabis industry.

Cannabis gets you high, is non-addictive, is completely harmless, and it grows virtually anywhere. One doesn't have to drill mines into Mother Earth nor destroy rain forests to harvest the prolific herb, so some multinationals could go broke. Cry your heart out. But everyone knows this, don't they?

Howard Marks has been a cannabis smuggler for 30 years. His autobiography, Mr Nice, is out in June (Secker & Warburg)

Legalise them all

THE position of cannabis as a Class A scheduled substance is certainly anomalous. A clinician with a Home Office licence can prescribe heroin or cocaine, but not cannabis. It's quite disgraceful that a substance with a proven therapeutic value is denied to people.

Yet where Clare Short goes wrong is suggesting the decriminalisation of cannabis alone. First, that would give the impression that some drugs are safe and others are not. All drugs ought to be treated with caution. Second, if cannabis became legal, criminals would concentrate their marketing strategies on the even more dangerous drugs, heroin and cocaine. This happened in the US. And third, it would remove the interest in what I take as the main goal: legalising all drugs. We worry quite correctly about addiction and our young people, but the real issue is the effect of illegal drug money on society at large. Legalisation would deprive criminals of maybe £10 billion a year. At the moment we're paying twice. We pay for the results of the illegal trade and we pay the cops to enforce the law, which is quite ineffective except in one respect: it pushes up the price, so people steal to pay for their drugs.

You'd have to state that legalised drugs should not be sold to young people — although we say the same about alcohol and tobacco but that doesn't work. Yet much of the glamour would be removed.

It's not a debate those in power like being aired — and it's not just in the Labour Party. When it comes to drugs, the thought police are active throughout the Conservative Party and the Home Office. Anyone who speaks out of turn just gets clobbered.

Richard Stevenson, of Liverpool University, is author of Winning The War On Drugs (Institute of Economic Affairs, 1994)

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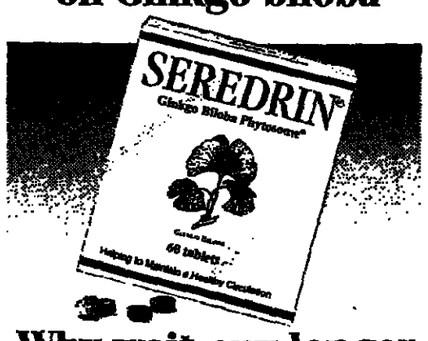

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Terry Southern

Satirical eye on US society

TERRY Southern, who has died aged 71 after complications following respiratory failure, was perhaps the greatest American satirist since Mark Twain and Nathanael West. Best known for co-writing the screenplays of the films Dr Strangelove and Easy Rider and the classic novels, Candy and The Magic Christian, Southern was one of the most fascinating and enigmatic figures on the American literary landscape.

Unlike Norman Mailer, Gore Vidal and others, his work was not grounded in the traditions of naturalism that inform much of American literature. He was exploring the received ideas and beliefs of his time through satirical techniques, assisted by his mastery of dialogue and an ability to take the most mundane situation and transform it into something surreal and larger than life.

To fans young and old, Southern was a living legend, the magus-like figure behind the novels Candy (with Mason Hoffenberg), Flash and Filigree, The Magic Christian and Blue Movie. It is difficult to believe one man could encompass so many different aspects of his culture.

Born in Alvarado, Texas, he served in Europe with the US Army during the second world war. On graduating with an English degree from Northwestern University in 1948, he went to Paris to study at the Sorbonne for four years that were vital to his development as a writer. Writing for expatriate publications like New Story, Zero, Merlin and, most significantly, the Paris Review, he became friends with Aram Avakian, Alexander Trocchi, James Baldwin, Mordecai Richler, Jean Stein, Mavis Gallant, Mason Hoffenberg, George Plimpton, John Marquand Jr, H L Humes and Peter Matthiessen. His extensive travels through Europe helped refine his "hipster" image to perfection.

During the fifties, he took literary advice from Nelson Algren, William Faulkner and Henry Green. The latter persuaded Andre Deutsch to publish Flash And Filigree in 1958. The follow-up, The Magic Christian (1959) about a millionaire who stages elaborate hoaxes to test the greed of his fellow man, acquired a small but avid following.

In these books he perfected a unique brand of black humour and irony. It was a sensibility which allowed Southern to move through several worlds at once. He socialised with the Beats downtown and the Paris Review crowd uptown. Despite his hipster aura, he made friends easily with the likes of Kenneth Tynan, Lenny Bruce and Jonathan Miller.

BY the early sixties, Southern came to the attention of two other pop heroes, Stanley Kubrick and Peter Sellers, who used to give away copies of The Magic Christian as gifts. With Kubrick and Sellers, he collaborated on the making of Dr Strangelove, Or How I Learned To Stop Worrying And Love The Bomb.

The wide release of Dr Strangelove and the mainstream publication of Candy in 1964 fuelled a highly successful stretch as a screenwriter. He abandoned the quality literature game and embraced the possibilities of film with a passion unusual in literary circles. The response of the international film community was mutual. During this heady period, Southern worked with, or was courted by, to name a few, Tony Richardson, Alexander Mackendrick, Norman Jewison, Peter Yates, Jean-Luc Godard, Roger Vadim, Joseph McGrath, Mike Nichols, Richard Lester, Otto Preminger and Jerry Schatzberg.

This success and acclaim pushed Southern into the forefront of the hothouse atmosphere of the sixties. Suddenly Terry Southern seemed to be everywhere. His face peered out from the cover of The Beatles' Sgt Pepper album next to Oscar Wilde, T E Lawrence and Anthony Burgess. He co-edited an anthology of avant-garde American and European literature. His name appeared on the credits of several highly touted films, was whispered in clubs and salons and was sought out by editors, film producers and readers. Someone even tried to impersonate him. In 1968, he accompanied Jean Genet, William Burroughs and Allen Ginsberg to get a read on the madness at the Chicago Democratic Convention. The IRS, FBI and CIA began to take a professional interest in these career developments.

In 1970, he hit another career peak with no less than four works generating heated discussion: the controversial Southern-scripted films — Easy Rider, The Magic Christian, and End of The Road — and the novel Blue Movie.

Dr Strangelove, Southern conceded, was his best experience with a film director. He was often hired to do a Strangelove on other scripts, but his skill as a screenwriter was always broader than that. Easy Rider would lack much of its punch without the George Hanson character (inspired by Southern's love for William Faulkner's writing) and the small-town lawyer, Gavin Stevens, who runs through his novels. Hanson as played by Jack Nicholson provides the film's moral centre.

Barbarella still amuses because of the Candy-like plotting and Jane Fonda's intuitive feel for the gentle joke in such Southern dialogue as: "A lot of dramatic situations begin with screaming." His two most underrated films, The Loved One (1965) and End Of The Road (1970) were situations where he had a role almost equivalent to that of co-director. The wild and overreaching structures of these films hold up surprisingly well in the play-it-safe nineties and are overdue for serious critical re-evaluation.

By contrast, the seventies were a difficult period of transition. A slow, but steady shift towards conservatism and materialism in the culture led to a backlash against Southern's work. Rumours of drug and alcohol abuse haunted him. Yet he remained extremely active. Each year brought another eclectic film project, even if the screenplays were rarely produced. He worked for almost a decade with painter Larry Rivers on an ambitious children's book, a precursor of the interactive media of the nineties.

Aside from his 1970 novel Blue Movie, his most notable credits during this period were on the 1981/82 season of Saturday Night Live for Executive Producer Michael O'Donoghue, and The Telephone, a troubled 1988 collaboration with Rip Torn and Harry Nilsson, starring Whoopi Goldberg.

For his part, Southern continued, against the current odds, to write wonderful screenplays. A recent project with Peter Beard is a dark meditation on conservation called End Of The Game. He also taught a new generation of screenwriters in a graduate seminar at Columbia University. The writing of the semi-autobiographical Texas Summer took even longer until its publication in 1992. Southern continued to teach, maintain his home in East Canaan, Connecticut, socialise and collaborate (which was often the same thing for Southern) with friends as varied as Rip Torn, Dennis Hopper, Jean Stein, William Claxton, William Burroughs, Harry Nilsson and Keith Richards.

In 1990, Southern's 1968 collection, Red Dirt Marijuana, was re-issued by Citadel Underground in the US. This renewed interest and appreciation of Southern's work was due in no small part to the realisation that the targets of his satire — politicians, the military, racists, the corporate and scientific establishments, etc — had not changed for the better with the ageing of the baby boom generation.

IN fact, as Southern quipped in Rolling Stone that year, there now existed a kinder, gentler form of McCarthyism. The generation that gathered around the nebulous utopianism of Woodstock had grown up to embrace the crude avarice of the Bush-Reagan administrations.

Like the surrealist billionaire in The Magic Christian, Southern was also a grand guy. He was shy and reserved on first meeting, but his expansive wit and generosity, along with a Sellers-like gift for mimicry, won him a wide range of friends and admirers. He was not at ease with celebrity and disdained career management, so he took little part in literary discussions in the seventies. But his works kept a powerful hold on his grassroots following. Among peers like Norman Mailer, Gore Vidal, and Vonnegut, he was rated one of the best novelists of their generation. The young black American writer, Darius James, author of Negrophobia, cited Southern's Texas Summer with its particular syntax and style as the kind of novel he was trying to write.

The disillusion and cynicism of the nineties revealed that Southern's work, while under-appreciated, still resonated. Flash And Filigree, with its Bunuel-like evocation of Californian hedonism and violence, anticipated the empty materialism of a North America filled with malls, video stores and designer clothes.

The Magic Christian's surrealist millionaire proved an engaging forerunner of corporate moguls like Rupert Murdoch and Malcolm Forbes. Candy and Blue Movie remain complex critiques of our attitudes towards sex and freedom of expression, guaranteed to annoy liberal and conservative alike. His two most famous screenplays, Dr Strangelove and Easy Rider, are notable for their comedy, political and social insight, and cinematic innovation.

In the remaining years of his life, Southern collaborated twice with the Devon-based designer, Perry Richardson, on a book about The Rolling Stones and the history of Virgin Records. In addition to teaching at Columbia University once a week, he was also at work on several screenplays. Both Blue Movie and a Texas Summer are being adapted by two American independent producers.

Southern is survived by his longtime companion, Gail Gerber, his second wife, Carol Southern, an editor at Random House, and his son with Carol, Nile, a writer and filmmaker.

Lee Hill

Terry Southern, writer, born May 1, 1924; died October 30, 1995

A pair of aces . . . Terry Southern (left) with Lenny Bruce in the summer of 1964 PHOTOGRAPH: WILLIAM CLAXTON

Brian Easdale

Music with a touch of magic

BRITAIN'S most musically accomplished film-makers, Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger, worked with two great composers the Hungarian Miklos Rozsa who died recently and the Englishman Brian Easdale, who died aged 86 in London yesterday.

While researching my biography of Pressburger, my grandfather, I met and interviewed both men. In Hollywood Rozsa lived in a replica castle in the Hollywood hills, surrounded by an art collection of great taste and value. Easdale, forgotten and destitute lived in a single institutional room in a Kilburn old people's home. His Oscar, awarded for his 1947 masterpiece The Red Shoes, sat incongruously, almost accusingly, on the sideboard.

A more striking metaphor for the relative rewards of the British and American film industry, could not be found. But Easdale, a modest, thoughtful and warm individual, who appeared slightly inarticulate when discussing anything but music, appeared to feel no bitterness at all.

Easdale was educated at Westminster Abbey Choir School and the Royal College of Music and found early success as a composer. He wrote his first opera, Rapunzel at the age of 18 and by the time he was 20 his Death March had been performed by the London Symphony Orchestra under Sir Malcolm Sargent. Seven years later his Five Pieces for orchestra were given in Vienna.

By 1937 Easdale had garnered a modest but respectable reputation as a serious young composer but was living on the bread-line in a Hampstead bed-sit. It was his downstairs neighbour of the time, Louis MacNeice, who suggested that Easdale follow the example of their mutual friend, W H Auden, and do a little hack work for John Grierson's GPO Film Unit.

Easdale may have joined the unit merely for the money, but he soon found that it was a hive of creativity and a haven for struggling artists, thanks more to the maverick Brazilian mentor Alberto Cavalcanti than Grierson himself. Particularly inspiring was the collaboration of Auden and young Benjamin Britten, who experimented with the imaginative possibilities of the documentary form in their two classics Night Mail and Coal Face. Easdale became fascinated by the inter-relation of music and images and soon found himself spending more time composing for films than doing his own work.

Over the next three years Easdale composed scores for a number of documentary and advertising films including A Job In A Million, Kew Gardens and Men In Danger. Perhaps his most memorable assignment was on the five-minute animated commercial HPO (aka Heavenly Post Office) directed by the German refugee silhouette-animator Lotte Reiniger.

Shortly after the outbreak of war Easdale was called-up and attached to the Crown Film Unit, before being posted overseas to work with Information Films of India. The subcontinent was to have a profound effect on Easdale's musical ideas thereafter. His working schedule was light and he spent much of his time studying Indian music, transcribing folk tunes and buying local instruments. He was particularly impressed by the music of Nepal, where he spent several weeks researching for a recruitment and information film called Johnny Gurkha (1945) about the Gurkha soldiers.

While stationed in Bombay, Easdale had the good fortune to meet and befriend the author Rumer Godden, so, when he read a short announcement in the Indian Telegraph that the producers Powell and Pressburger were planning to film Godden's book Black Narcissus, he was convinced that he was destined to compose the film's music. On his return to England a few months later Easdale arranged an interview with Powell and Pressburger, whose fascination with the use of music in films was already obvious. They asked him to compose a trial section: Kanchi's dance, performed alluringly in the film by Jean Simmons. Easdale's composition made use of the "ethnic" percussion instruments he had bought in India and Powell and Pressburger, impressed by the authenticity and eroticism of the music, so different from the usual bland violins, hired him.

> Easdale became fascinated by the inter-relation between music and images on film

On very few occasions have set, design, colour, cinematography, and music worked so closely together to create atmosphere and a sense of place as they did in Black Narcissus. Godden's story of repressed sexuality and religion was set in the high Himalayas, but Powell and Pressburger decided not to make the film on location, but entirely on the sound-stage at Pinewood studios, creating an artificially heightened atmosphere that they could control down to the smallest detail. From the very moment that Easdale's enormous bellowing Himalayan trumpets call out at the beginning, until the tragic death at the end, we are kept enclosed in an airtight imaginative world.

Easdale's contribution to this effect cannot be overemphasised. Powell and Pressburger asked him not only to compose the music but also to oversee the film's entire soundtrack, perhaps the first occasion that a composer had such control. Moreover, as Powell recounts in his autobiography, he conducted another influential experiment with Easdale, asking him to prescore a section of the film so that it could be shot to play-back. In this way music is made master of the film and everything else, lighting, movement, and acting is subordinated to it. Powell and Pressburger later adopted this technique of "the composed film" in The Red Shoes' ballet sequence, and throughout The Tales of Hoffman (1951).

Although delighted by Easdale's work on Black Narcissus, Powell and Pressburger had an obligation to return to their regular composer, the German emigré Allan Gray, for their next film, The Red Shoes. However, it was soon obvious that Gray, a brilliant pasticheur but not a composer of great personality, was not up to composing the striking and original ballet music which was central to the conception of film — and without which the star dancers, Leonide Massine, Robert Helpman and Moira Shearer, would refuse to dance. Called in at the last minute, and put under enormous pressure, Easdale, turned out his Red Shoes Suite. "I tried very hard to be balletic," he said, "of all composers Tchaichovsky and Stravinsky helped me most." The result was a seminal piece of film music, one of the very few that can stand up in the concert hall without images.

Easdale did not, however, conduct the piece for the film. He asked that an older, more experienced conductor be brought in, and suggested that Sir Thomas Beecham would bring the correct qualities to the piece. "I shall always think that this suggestion of his," wrote Michael Powell, "so unselfish and imaginative, was the finest piece of collaboration I have ever known from an artist."

Easdale's happy collaboration with Powell and Pressburger continued almost unbroken until the 1960s. First there was The Small Back Room, Gone To Earth (for which he won the best original score prize at the Venice film festival) and The Elusive Pimpernel, then, after Powell and Pressburger dissolved their partnership, The Miracle In Soho for Pressburger and Peeping Tom for Powell, with it's spine-tingling percussive opening and haunting piano theme.

However, as work began to dry up for Powell and Pressburger, so it did for Easdale. For some inexplicable reason he had never received any job offers from America, even after The Red Shoes' phenomenal success there. Neither had he diversified within Britain. He seems to have found it difficult to work outside the creative and supportive groups which the GPO and The Archers — Powell and Pressburger's company — had provided. In 1951 he had written one extremely evocative score for Carol Reed's Outcast Of The Islands — no doubt he was selected because of his expertise with "ethnic music" — but he didn't enjoy the experience and claimed that Reed was tone deaf and didn't care what the music was like. Apart from that, there was a single feature, the dismal Green Scarf (1954), a scattering of unmemorable documentaries and a few BBC commissions including incidental music for adaptations of Godden's novel, The River, and Kafka's The Trial.

In 1962 Easdale returned to non-film music with some success when he wrote Missa Conventrensis for choir, congregation and organ for the consecration of Coventry Cathedral. Thereafter, a downward career spiral was accompanied by family and alcohol problems and he worked only intermittently.

In recent years Easdale's obscurity had been somewhat relieved by a growing appreciation for classic film scores, and at last year's Kenwood music festival his Red Shoes Suite was conducted to great acclaim by Ian Sutherland. This must have encouraged Easdale to work again, and when I visited him recently he was planning a film adaptation of De Quincy's Confessions Of An Opium Eater, for which he had already composed the main themes.

Perhaps the greatest tribute to Easdale was a comment I overheard at Jule Styne's short-lived Broadway adaptation of The Red Shoes in 1993. As the lights came up after two hours of almost unrelieved tedium, a middle-aged woman behind me, doubtless once one of those little girls who was so charmed by The Red Shoes film, turned to her companion and said, "If only they had kept the original music, then they could have kept the magic!"

> The collaboration with Powell and Pressburger went on nearly unbroken into the 1960s

Kevin Macdonald

Moira Shearer writes: Brian Easdale was a quiet, unassuming man — rather shy, I think, and a bit bemused by actors and dancers. When we met, the score for The Red Shoes was complete, so we never saw him at work. One day during rehearsals he took me to lunch to his favourite Indian restaurant in Camden Town — Indian food was unusual in 1947. I remember his amused concern as I spluttered and went red in the face. I had to tell him I hated it.

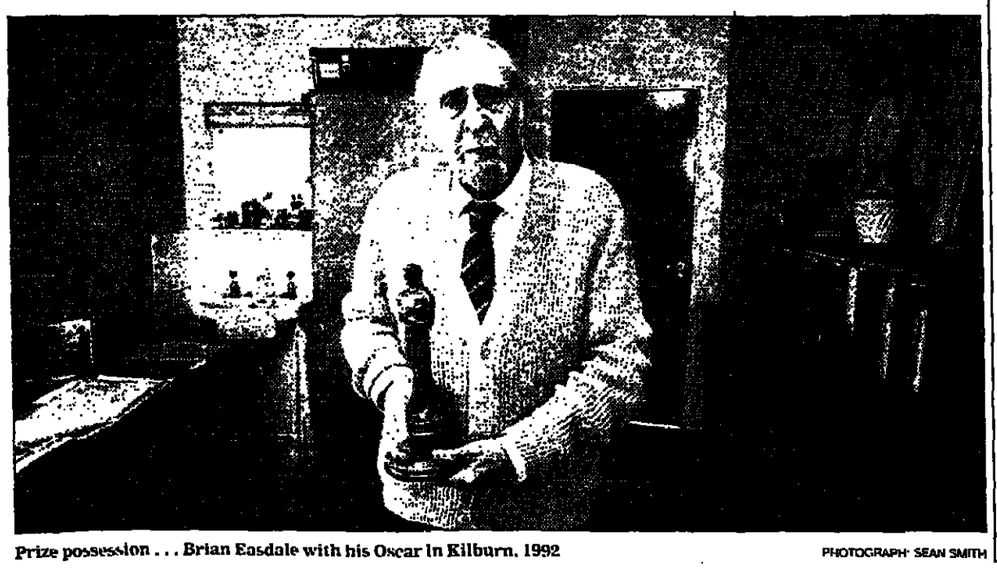
I heard of his long illness and visited him in his last years, reminding him of old days and that comic occasion. I think he remembered me, but he seemed uninterested and quite detached from his early life. I knew he had a large family but he was living alone in a small room — there was a piano with music on it but I felt it hadn't been used for a long time. He was obviously lonely and I tried to be cheerful and amuse him but I don't think I succeeded. He was a talented composer. I was really saddened that his career simply faded away — it seemed such a waste.

Blue Johnson adds: Brian Easdale was my dearest friend and colleague and only months ago was a driving force behind the scenes for the sell-out Kenwood concert at which the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra performed the Red Shoes Suite conducted by Ian Sutherland. He tirelessly collaborated with Michael Wehber, English Heritage, Ian Sutherland, Michael Letchford at Warner Classics, and colleagues who continue in the development and re-recording of his great works.

Brian's magic stretched much further than the classical world and touched the very soul of popular music, just weeks ago completing works at Soul 2 Soul and EMI.

Brian Easdale, composer, born August 10 1909; died October 30 1995

Moira Shearer in The Red Shoes KOBAL COLLECTION



Prize possession . . . Brian Easdale with his Oscar in Kilburn, 1992 PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

Birthdays

Russ Ballard, rock musician, and singer, 48; **Barbara Bel Geddes**, actress, 73; **Eddie Charlton**, snooker player, 66; **Michael Collins**, former Apollo II astronaut, 65; **Hugh Cruttwell**, former principal, RADA, 77; **Dale Evans**, former actress and cowboy singer, 83; **Dr Ian Field**, secretary, British Medical Association, 62; **Dick Francis**, novelist, 75; **Lee Grant**, actress, 66; **John Gunter**, theatrical designer, 57; **Lord Hardinge of Penshurst**, publisher and editor of Collins Crime Club series, 74; **Alastair Hetherington**, former editor, the Guardian, 76; **Michael Hoffman**, deputy chairman and group chief executive, Thames Water, 56; **Illinois Jacquet**, jazz saxophonist, 73; **H R F Keating**, crime novelist, 69; **Barrie Keeffe**, dramatist, 50; **Michael Kitchen**, actor, 47; **Angela Knight**, Conservative MP, 45; **John Lowe**, world champion jockey, 67; **Prof Robert Mahler**, physician, 71; **Kevin Mooney**, jockey, 41; **Charles Moore**, editor, the Daily Telegraph, 39; **Larry Mullen**, drummer of U2, 32; **Brendan Mullin**, rugby player, 32; **Tom O'Connor**, comedian, 55; **Sir Jeremy Rowe**, chairman, Occupational Pensions Board, 67; **Sir Jimmy Savile**, disc jocky, charity fundraiser, 69; **Prof Avi Sclaim**, historian of the Middle East and fellow of St Antony's College, Oxford, 50; **Norodom Sihanouk**, restored King of Cambodia, 73; **Lady Wilcox**, chairman, the National Consumer Council, 55.

Death Notices

COHEN (HILDA) peacefully in hospital on October 29th 1995 Hilda aged 80 years of Blackley, Manchester, the devoted wife of the late Jud. A loving Mum of Jean, Jimmy, Vivien and Ruth, a loved Granny of Ben, Anna, Rik, Rosie, Lucie, Daisy and Joe and a sadly missed mother-in-law of Pete and Marilyn. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Nicky Alliance c/o the Funeral Services. The service and committal will take place at Blackley Crematorium, Manchester on Wednesday 1st November at 10.30 am. All enquiries to Blackley Co-operative Funeral Service. Telephone 0161 740 5255

MITRA, Menahendra, sometime Headmaster of Robert Montefiore School died suddenly 25/10/95, mourned by his wife Esra and two children James and Jessica. Service on Friday 3rd November at Crematorium Chapel, Lewisham (Verdant Lane) 2.00 pm. Donations to Oxfam or flowers to No2 Commonwealth Buildings, Woolwich Church Street, SE18 5NW

PINNEY, Rachel Pinney died suddenly in London Friday 20th October 1995 aged 8. "You are loved" and will never be forgotten. Cremation Friday 3rd November 3.[illegible] pm Golders Green Crematorium, West Chapel, Hoop Lane, London NW11.

WISEMAN David Michael Died peacefully aged 80, on 19th October 1995 in Weston-Super-Mare. Deeply missed by his daughter Martha, family & friends. Funeral at Islington Cemetery, High Road, East Finchley, London N2 on Friday 3rd November at 1.30 p.m. Memorial Service for friends to be arranged.

Births

PEEL YATES. On 29th October 1995 at University College Hospital to Frances (née Hutchinson) and Will, a son Patrick Thomas

■ To place your announcement telephone 0171 611 9060

Mowlem offloads lossmaking City airport . . . **Cockburn posted to private sector, page 12**

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance **Guardian**

Bank faces Barings onslaught

Alex Brummer
Financial Editor

THE Bank of England will be sharply criticised over its supervision of the collapsed merchant bank, Barings, in a Commons report to be released next week.

However, the Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee, which has responsibility for monitoring the Bank's activities, will stop short of concluding that banking supervision be hived off to an independent commission.

The decision to leave banking regulation with the Bank of England follows much debate among committee members, with some Conservative MPs joining Labour critics of the Bank in demanding that regulation be moved to a new Banking Commission. In a series of votes it was decided to leave banking regulation with Threadneedle Street for the time being although several MPs are understood to have said this was "the last-chance saloon for the Bank".

The language deployed by the committee in its criticism is said to be uncharacteristically strong, reflecting MPs' anger that the Bank not only let itself down in its regulation of Barings but also the reputation of London as an international banking sector.

They were, however, swayed by the argument that it was important that one authority have power over banking supervision and the money supply.

There was also a view that the committee would weaken the UK banking system if it removed day-to-day supervision from the Bank, because reliable information suggests that some of the global credit-rating agencies might lower their assessments of UK-owned banks were supervision to be transferred to a less-understood supervisor.

The committee's report, which will be published next Tuesday, will be the third on the Barings debacle since the blue-chip securities house collapsed in February with more than £800 million of debts.

The report will endorse many of the recommendations of the official Board of Banking Supervision inquiry, including the institution of management changes in the Bank's supervision department to ensure proper benchmarks for the quality of regulation. The consulting firm Arthur Anderson has already been hired by the Bank to look at quality assurance.

The Labour Party is conducting an informal inquiry into banking supervision under the direction of its City spokesman, Alistair Darling MP, who is censorious of the Bank's approach to regulation. Mr Darling says it is "imperative" that the Bank of England ensure that proper management controls are in place in UK banks and that they work.

"That change in culture does not appear to have been accepted in the Bank of England, which in the past has exhibited a degree of complacency that is regrettable," Mr Darling said.

It is understood that the Labour inquiry, which is drawing on a wide range of banking and financial experts, has yet to make a recommendation on whether supervision should be removed from the Bank of England.

However, a view is developing in the Commons that responsibility for regulation should be moved to the highest levels in the Bank, which might mean putting the deputy governor, Howard Davies, in charge.

Pools group eyes Africa

Patrick Donovan
City Editor

LITTLEWOODS is considering a bid to take over the running of South Africa's proposed £4.5 billion-a-year national lottery.

The privately owned combine, with interests from football pools to chain stores, is in advanced negotiations over setting up a bidding consortium, while also gearing up to fight off a £1.2 billion takeover bid from a group of British-based venture capitalists.

Littlewood's consortium partners include Tony O'Reilly's Independent Newspapers group, the National African Chamber of Commerce and African Renaissance, the black investment group, it emerged last night.

The move would bring Littlewoods into stiff competition with at least five other consortiums preparing to bid for the lottery contract.

Littlewoods' corporate strategy director, Chris Baker, declined yesterday to comment on the members of its potential consortium. But he confirmed that Littlewoods was looking actively at the South African market. He added: "The substantial effort down there demonstrates our commitment to the international expansion of all our Littlewoods' businesses."

The proposed lottery deal is seen by insiders as another reason why the £1.2 billion takeover proposal being drawn up by the former chief executive Barry Dale undervalues the true potential.

South Africa's cabinet approved the national lottery proposal in June but the legislation has still to pass through parliament and the lottery — intended to raise money for development — could need another 12-18 months for approval.

Industry estimates suggest that sales could reach R26 billion a year (£4.58 billion) and profits of R700 million.

Other consortiums setting up to bid are:

- Games Africa, a subsidiary of Opus, which is already involved in scratch cards.
- Tattersall, the Australian lottery combine.
- GTECH. The Rhode-island-based company already supplies computer software to Camelot, the British lottery operator, in which it holds a 22 per cent stake.
- Other companies believed to be active in the market include US-based AWI, Essnet of Sweden and the French-based International des Jeux.

The 33 Moores family members who control Littlewoods will vote on whether to sell the company in December.

City slickers got their skates on when the UK's only outdoor ice rink, at the Broadgate office complex, reopened yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: E HAMILTON WEST

One in three on the dole of late

Seumas Milne and Sarah Ryle

NEARLY one in three of Britain's workforce have been out of work and claimed an unemployment-related benefit since the last general election, the latest official figures show. Yesterday's newly published money supply statistics provided further evidence of a slowdown in the economy.

More than 8.5 million people made an average of two unemployment-related claims between April 1992 and August this year, according to JobCentre returns released yesterday by Labour's employment spokesman, Ian McCartney.

The gloomy prospects for employment were highlighted by an Engineering Employers' Federation forecast that a further 11,000 engineering jobs will go over the next 12 months, despite the hope of a 3 per cent growth in the industry's output.

The continuing shake-out mainly reflects productivity growth, though engineering employment increased by 24,000 last year to 1.76 million. Output has still not returned to its 1990 level in real terms and more than 400,000 engineering jobs have been lost since the beginning of the decade.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer yesterday was given ammunition to resist Bank of England pressure for higher interest rates as one of the Government's favoured guides to inflationary pressure hit its weakest annual growth rate for two years.

Coming two days ahead of tomorrow's monthly meeting between Kenneth Clarke and Governor Eddie George, the Bank figures showed the narrow measure of money supply — mainly cash — grew by 0.3 per cent in October against a market prediction of 0.5 per cent. The seasonally adjusted annual growth rate dropped to 5.2 per cent from 5.5 per cent last month.

The notes and coins element of M0 — used as an indicator of consumer spending — grew steadily by 0.5 per cent in October, an annual rate of 5.7 per cent which was unchanged on September. It was the smaller component of M0, banks' operational balances, which declined by £42 million and brought down the overall rate.

Bankers 'indecent in their demands for money back'

Maxwell trial

Dan Atkinson

THE WALL Street investment bank Lehman Brothers disregarded common decency and demanded its money back from the Maxwell empire shortly after its founder, Robert Maxwell, was reported missing at sea, an Old Bailey court was told yesterday.

Kevin Maxwell asked them to hold off until the next day, but the bank insisted on repayment, jurors were told.

"They said they couldn't stop the wheels of business . . . they didn't give a stuff about my father," Kevin said.

He had "requested them on grounds of humanity" not to take immediate action regarding the selling of securities the bank held as collateral, but this had been ignored.

In the wake of this débâcle, said Kevin Maxwell, he had turned to the Jewish community, in Israel and around the world, for help in saving his late father's debt-laden empire.

Yitzak Modai, then finance minister of Israel, was a key figure in Kevin's hopes of garnering support for the group. He was "the man who would have the best possible contacts to sources of finance from the Jewish world", said Kevin.

Kevin Maxwell denies two charges of conspiring to defraud pension funds; his brother Ian and financial adviser Larry Trachtenberg each deny one charge of conspiring to defraud pension funds.

Kevin Maxwell told jurors of "an enormously protracted, bitter and bloody internal corporate battle", in early 1991 at First Tokyo Investment Trust, a £60 million to £70 million fund managed by London & Bishopsgate Group, the Maxwell fund-management subsidiary, which had also managed First Tokyo's stock-lending programme. The Maxwell group had taken a stake in First Tokyo in 1988.

In early 1991, independent First Tokyo directors objected to the way stock-lending — the borrowing of securities for short periods of time — was conducted with regard to the Maxwell interests.

Kevin said: "My father viewed the suggestion that things had been conducted in an unauthorised manner as not being either fair or accurate."

The trust had not suffered from these transactions, said Kevin; in fact it had made more than £1 million.

A tough external investigation was launched, using the accountants Arthur Andersen. Finally, the Maxwell group bought all the shares in First Tokyo that it did not already own.

Kevin said: "The lessons that I drew from it . . . were that stock lending was legal, that the conduct of London & Bishopsgate was proper."

But he said: "This was a tremendous, bruising fight."

Robert Maxwell, he said, had wanted to go to law. "By the time it ended on July 31 I was emotionally exhausted."

It had, he said, been a "tremendous struggle".

The case continues today.

E-mail etiquette is turning its back on Emily Post

Dan Atkinson

FIRST there was telegram-speak, in which words were mashed together to save money and emergency cables inevitably concluded "Please Advise". Then there was the brutalism of the telex machine, with its brusque Who Are You? button.

Now there is the etiquette of electronic mail, detailed and prescribed for computer users by AT&T, the US telephone company. One may have imagined that, given the supposedly imminent death of the printed word, this guide would be strictly an on-screen production, but AT&T did not get huge by believing its own propaganda and this invaluable work is not only a paper production but, apparently, in storage somewhere near Redditch.

From reports of its contents, it can be gleaned that e-mail lingo is sufficiently robotic to make the Newspeak of 1984 read like Jane Austen. It will, however, find immediate favour from all those with bitter childhood memories of having thank-you letters thrown back for rewriting.

"Dear John," can be safely junked, as, presumably, can "yours sincerely".

With these olde worlde conventions erased from the users' mind, he can get down to memorising the "reply", "forward" or "paper clip" screen icons; these, apparently, are indispensable for the e-mail correspondent.

Handy e-mail acronyms include TNX (which, for those who did not work at Bletchley Park, means "thanks") and DIIK ("damned if I know", hardly in the spirit of the information society). Yob culture is represented by RTFM ("Read the F****** Mamual"), although AT&T warns against habitual rudeness, a prohibition that would have ruled out half the great letter-writers of history.

But perhaps AT&T has a fogey streak. Not only does it declare e-mail no substitute for face-to-face meetings or telephone conversations, but a request for a copy of the etiquette manual met with the assurance from the company that it would be in the first-class post.

Who needs e-mail when we have Royal Mail?

Raiders demand an RJR Nabisco split-up

Ian Katz in New York

CORPORATE raiders Bennett LeBow and Carl Icahn have joined forces in an attempt to increase the value of RJR Nabisco by pushing the tobacco-based conglomerate to shed its under-performing food business.

Announcing that he and Mr Icahn had amassed just under 4 per cent of RJR's stock, Mr LeBow said the two investors would attempt to replace board members if they did not agree to cut loose Nabisco Holdings Corp, the food manufacturer of which RJR holds 80.5 per cent.

"It's time to spin off Nabisco," Mr LeBow said in a letter to RJR chairman and chief executive Charles Harper. Miami-based Mr LeBow has long urged RJR to ditch its food arm, the market leader in cookies and crackers. But though the company spun-off 19.5 per cent of Nabisco to its shareholders in January, RJR pledged not to distribute the rest of the food business before 1997.

The RJR board claims a quicker separation could damage the company's credit rating and expose directors to allegations of fraudulently moving assets if a class-action lawsuit mounted by smokers against the firm proved successful.

But many shareholders believe ditching Nabisco is the only way to realise the value of RJR, whose cigarette brands, including Winston, Camel and Salem, produce cash earnings which could be used to boost dividends.

RJR was up $1 at $31 a share in early trading yesterday. Mr Icahn and Mr LeBow claim the value of RJR stock could be increased to the equivalent of at least $40 a share if the remaining Nabisco stake is distributed to shareholders.

Mr LeBow is seeking to overturn a recent company by-law which prevents shareholders with the support of 25 per cent of investors' votes from calling a special meeting. He wants a non-binding resolution from shareholders in favour of the spin off, and promises to nominate a slate of directors committed to the split at next year's annual meeting if the board does not bend to his will before then.

Notebook

No let-up in the newspaper war

Edited by Alex Brummer

THE United News and Media group, which publishes the Daily and Sunday Express, is under even more pressure than its rivals. That may explain why the company was yesterday ready to admit publicly what others such as Mirror Group, Associated and The Telegraph have been prepared only to hint: that industry negotiations are taking place to cut a large slug of operating costs.

United has denied plans to sell its national titles but has appointed corporate finance superstar, George Magan, to devise strategy.

But, while all national newspaper owners — smarting under a 50 per cent rise in newsprint prices this year as well as a revenue squeeze from the cover price war — would like to reduce their cost base it is questionable whether the "collegiate" proposition from MGN and Associated will ever be agreed.

Clearly MGN, whose back-office function now caters for the Independent and its Sunday sister, would like the chance to earn more money from other "third party" contracts. Just as clearly a company such as United could probably hack £15 million a year off its costs in this area.

But transforming the wishful thinking of Fleet Street's cocktail party circuit into action will take some doing.

In the world of newspapers, collaboration is harder to achieve than competition — look only at the suspicions which a supposed unfair division of newsprint at the joint Telegraph/United print works can provoke.

Sharing services such as distribution and advertising administration can speedily lead to the suspicion of sacrificed editorial integrity. The problems of integrating back office functions looks almost as problematic as monetary union. Moreover, the cost pressures which prompted the talks, including newsprint prices, are beginning to abate.

Sharing costs may sound attractive. It may help continue the struggle against Rupert Murdoch's News International. But while bilateral deals are a possibility, industry-wide co-operation may pose too great a challenge to the traditional independence of Fleet Street's combatants.

Bank escape

THE Bank of England's reputation as supervisor of the UK banking system will suffer another blow next week when the Treasury Select Committee releases its report on the Barings affair. Over the years the TCSSC has tended to give the Bank the benefit of the doubt in matters of supervision despite the Johnson Matthey Bankers debacle in 1984 and BCCI.

This time around, the Select Committee — which oversees the activities of the Bank — came closer than can be remembered to suggesting a hive-off of supervision. Some members were reportedly appalled by the lack of controls exposed in the Board of Banking Supervision report and the defensive tone of Bank officials under questioning by the committee.

For the moment the technical case for the Bank remaining in charge has won the day. But even the Bank's warmest supporters are becoming sceptical of its performance.

Cadbury Two

IMPATIENCE has been mounting at the length of time it is taking to follow up the developments in British corporate governance initiated by the Cadbury and Greenbury committees.

It seems that a person of suitable substance and standing has now been found to chair the successor to the Cadbury committee, so that Cadbury Two, as it has been dubbed, will be launched within the next few weeks. The lack of urgency with which Cadbury Two has been pursued has threatened to slow the momentum of the governance revolution. Cadbury, which reported three years ago, opened a huge debate about the way companies are governed, but it and the Greenbury committee dealt mainly with specifics.

Their detailed prescriptions for the structure of boards and the setting of board remuneration have been important. But now it is necessary to deal with the central issue of the relationship between comapnies and their owners which Cadbury raised but was not able to tackle.

Sceptics charter

THIS morning the European Commission will publish the results of a study which shows hard currency members have little to fear from competitive devaluations among their less robust colleagues, according to the news agency Market News Service.

Look at Britain, for example. According to MNS, the study will show Britain's share of merchandise trade within the European Union has fallen from around 14 per cent in 1980 to about 10 per cent. "The decline in the British market share since 1980 is noteable and there is little evidence of an increased British presence on continental markets in spite of periodic devaluations of the pound." Indeed, the decline is reported to have steepened since 1992 when the pound was ejected from the exchange rate mechanism.

The commission will feel its message will be a balm to hard currency countries' worries. They should also note it will be music to the ears of Britain's Euro-sceptics. They will see the results as confirmation that British membership of the common market has hardly been a blessing.

Middle East and Africa make plea for development funds

Derek Brown in Jerusalem

SEVEN Middle East and North African countries yesterday unveiled multi-billion-pound shopping lists of development projects for which they are seeking private or government investment.

The projects ranged from a modest £300,000 steel rod factory for the emerging Palestinian autonomy, to a colossal scheme for the so called Red-Dead canal, joining the Red Sea and the Dead Sea.

The ambitious appeals for development funding emerged at a series of presentations on the second day of the Middle East and North Africa economic summit in the Jordanian capital, Amman.

With more than £3 billion worth of projects on display, the summit delegations have set their sights on a dramatic push for economic expansion, in the region with the slowest rate of growth in the world.

But along with the rhetoric and the glamorous presentations, the summit has also underlined the region's political conflicts and rivalries.

Calls from the US Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, and others for an end to the Arab economic boycott of Israel, were received coolly. Saudi Arabia, for one, has said it will not lift the boycott on trade with the Jewish state until there is a comprehensive peace in the region.

Delegations have also been sharply divided by proposals for a regional development bank.

The plan was strongly supported by the United States and by Egypt, where the bank will be based. But European countries including Britain, France and Germany strongly opposed setting up a bank.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.01	France 7.49	Italy 2.460	Singapore 2.18
Austria 15.05	Germany 2.1500	Malta 0.54	South Africa 5.57
Belgium 44.10	Greece 357.00	Netherlands 2.4150	Spain 186.00
Canada 2.0900	Hong Kong 12.00	New Zealand 2.32	Sweden 10.28
Cyprus 0.6950	India 54.87	Norway 9.50	Switzerland 1.73
Denmark 8.37	Ireland 0.9450	Portugal 228.00	Turkey 72.675
Finland 6.62	Israel 4.77	Saudi Arabia 5.87	USA 1.5400

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel)

Wings of confidence . . . the first commercial flight landing at City Airport, whose losses later proved disastrous PHOTOGRAPH GRAHAM TURNER

City Airport sold by Mowlem for bargain £14.5m

Lisa Buckingham

THE construction group John Mowlem managed yesterday to shed its most costly millstone, the loss-making London City Airport, to the Irish entrepreneur Dermot Desmond — by accepting a bargain basement price.

Mr Desmond, who is a former chairman of the Dublin airport group Aer Rianta and whose other business interests range from money-broking to the chairmanship of Celtic football club, is paying just £14.5 million for LCA.

That is £5.4 million less than the value put on LCA in Mowlem's books and means that the construction group has suffered losses of about £70 million plus write-downs on the airport, which was opened in 1986.

The disastrous performance of the LCA contributed to the resignation earlier this month of Mowlem's chief executive, John Marshall. Despite the financial haemorrhage, shares in Mowlem rose 9p to 63p, reflecting the City's relief that the financial albatross had disappeared.

Mowlem's new chief executive, John Gains, said: "This is the deal which is in the best interests of shareholders. It is a big loss but it is terminating a loss-making business."

He added that Mowlem, whose shares are 37p lower than their price in the rescue rights issue in spring last year, had largely pared itself back to its core businesses and would now be able to move forward.

Robin Hardy, of Panmure Gordon, commented: "The sale is below the book value and massively below the actual cost of building the thing . . . but the share price rise reflects relief that the company has got out at all."

William Charnock, managing director of LCA, said that although the airport had run up operating losses of £10.3 million in the past two years, its passenger levels were now roughly at the level required for operating break-even. Passenger numbers are expected to total more than 560,000 by the end of the year and he questioned Mowlem's assertion that losses were unlikely to improve significantly in the short term.

Unlike other major airports such as Heathrow and Gatwick, however, which earn a large slice of their profits from retailing, London City Airport has set its stall out as catering for business travellers to 10 European cities who want to pass as quickly as possible through the airport complex. Some 80 per cent of revenues are derived from aviation, with only the remainder coming from non-aviation sources such as restaurants and shops.

Mr Charnock said that airlines such as Air France and Lufthansa were increasing their flight capacity, which should help to keep passenger numbers rising.

Although Mr Desmond declined to comment, it is understood that he sees the possibility of making money from LCA partly because there is undeveloped land around the airstrip which could be turned into hotels.

PO faces heavy sorting despite privatisation reprieve

Outlook

Mark Milner and Chris Barrie

LAST November a handful of Conservative MPs threw the Government's plans for the Post Office into turmoil when they rebelled against the prospect of its privatisation.

A year on and the outlook for one of Britain's best loved institutions remains clouded — with the departure yesterday of its chief executive Bill Cockburn and reports of delay to key parts of its modernisation strategy.

Last year, despite the belief of the then Trade and Industry secretary, Michael Heseltine, that there was a strong economic case for the sell-off, enough MPs were worried by unpopularity over privatisation to force the Government to abandon plans to sell a 51 per cent stake.

Mr Cockburn's replacement, John Roberts, has run Counter Services — the division responsible for the 20,000 post offices — and was managing director personnel. As an internal candidate, his success will be seen by trade unions at least as an indication that the turmoil over privatisation is over.

But the organisation still faces upheaval, which is odd because on the surface it enjoys an enviable position. Its profits have ballooned as cost-cutting and rising volumes of mail coincide. Each day the Royal Mail handles 67 million letters, a 50 per cent increase on a decade ago. By levering its economies of scale, the Post Office has hiked its profits, last year by 54 per cent to £472 million.

Its position is bolstered by other defences. The Post Office does not levy VAT on its charges, unlike competitors. It also has massive geographical coverage through its network of post offices and enjoys a monopoly on the carriage of letters charged at under £1.

But the future is uncertain. The volume of letters may have risen but so has the size of the communications market. Mail is having to compete against electronic media which, although the written letter has been boosted by marketing innovation, is set to become faster and cheaper still.

The European Commission may also aggravate the competitive threat by ending the monopoly enjoyed by state post offices in direct mail services.

To offset competition the Post Office wants freedom to invest in new technology, to shed jobs and to undertake alliances overseas. But its showpiece automation project — swipe cards for benefit claimants — appears to be running late, although the PO insisted yesterday that the £1.5 billion investment was still on course.

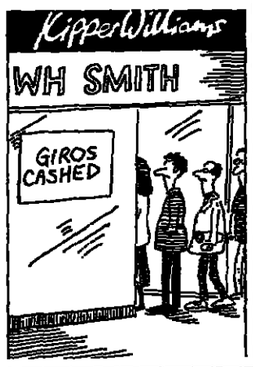
Meanwhile trade unions will resist the PO's goal of cutting jobs as new technology is installed.

But in the long run the main uncertainty will be political, the future dependent on the outcome of the next election. Labour has made its position clear. According to shadow trade and industry secretary, Margaret Beckett: "Labour believes that the Post Office should be given greater commercial freedom."

Yesterday the Government refused to discuss the future of the Post Office, but privatisation may be put back on the agenda if it wins the next election.

Porter's son Cockburn prepares for helm of becalmed WH Smith

Roger Cowe



BILL COCKBURN has no qualms about leaving the Post Office which has employed him for 34 years, even though becoming chief executive of WH Smith involves a move from public to private sector and one of retailing's trickiest jobs.

"The business issues of understanding the markets and the customers are very similar," he said yesterday after the announcement of his appointment. "There are parallels in that both the PO and WH Smith are highly visible organisations addressing the whole community. In both it is vital to get service right."

Mr Cockburn has gained much credit for commercialising the PO and bringing it to the brink of privatisation. But after failing to persuade the Government to go ahead with the sale, he is now ready to effect a similar transformation at a group which is seen as having lost its way in trying to build on the base of newspaper distribution and retailing.

The eldest child of a hospital porter, he joined the PO at 18, from grammar school in Edinburgh. His potential was quickly spotted and he was chosen to be personal assistant to PO chairman Sir William Rylands in the 1970s.

Mr Cockburn joined the PO board when British Telecom was hived off in 1981 and became chief executive three years ago.

While the PO has reported consistently improved performance under Mr Cockburn, WH Smith has struggled.

The main high-street stationery chain, which had proved resistant to recession, appears to have been suffering from the supermarkets' encroachment on its product areas and last year reported a drop in profits. Diversification into DIY retailing with the Do It All chain proved disastrous and made losses even after being merged with Boots' DIY venture.

The retailer has built up music and book retailing with the acquisitions of Our Price, Virgin's music shops and the Waterstone's chain, but these have not proved moneyspinners. US expansion has also been problematic.

So Mr Cockburn will have little time to improve his golf. "It was a source of constant embarrassment. No matter how hard my colleagues tried they could not lose to me," he joked.

Cockburn . . . moving on

News in brief

Debt and job fears deter home-buyers

UNWILLINGNESS to take on debt, worries over job insecurity and concern about keeping up mortgage repayments are the main reasons why potential first-time buyers are not entering the housing market, according to a survey by the Council of Mortgage Lenders.

The research found that owner-occupation is still much sought-after, with 84 per cent of respondents expecting to own their own homes by the year 2005.

Government help in stimulating the housing market was favoured by an overwhelming majority of respondents. Nearly three-quarters wanted the Government to remove stamp duty and almost two-thirds favoured special tax relief introduced for people with negative equity. Some 60 per cent wanted mortgage interest tax relief increased for all buyers, 44 per cent for first-time buyers only and 39 per cent for movers. — *Jill Papworth*

Trafalgar offloads Emerald

TRAFALGAR House yesterday unloaded the Emerald Producer floating production facility for $33.25 million (£21.3 million) to Seatankers Management, the Cyprus-based ship management company established by Norwegian shipowner John Fredriksen. The sale brings to a conclusion the saga of Emerald, whose attempted conversion from rig to oil production platform brought down the Davy Corporation, leading in 1991 to the company's acquisition by Trafalgar for £114 million.

Proceeds from the Emerald sale will be used to pay off some of Trafalgar's debt. — *Celia Weston*

Marketing in the money

MARKETING and sales staff are bucking pay trends by securing inflation-busting wage deals, according to research published today by Reward, a pay consultancy. In the year to August, sales and marketing personnel saw their salaries increase by 4 per cent, compared with an overall average of 3.25 per cent.

Women working in these sectors saw their pay packets increase even faster than their male counterparts, the survey shows. The research, covering 6,500 staff, also shows that middle managers in sales and marketing earn between £20,000 and £45,000 per annum. But, at all but the most senior levels, employees selling goods and services earn more than their marketing counterparts. — *Richard Thomas*

RTZ's sand pile

RTZ is raising £76 million from the sale, by its US Borax subsidiary, of the US Silica group to D George Harris and Associates — a New York-based business specialising in inorganic chemicals and minerals. RTZ said further deferred payments could push the purchase price to £89 million. The London-based mining group said it had sold the unit, a supplier of silica sand to North American customers, because it wanted to focus on "internationally oriented operations which are large in relation to their industry". — *Bloomberg*

Infotrade goes online

INFOTRADE, the Birmingham-based computer company, yesterday launched a personal finance computer network which allows private investors to buy and sell shares via their personal computers. The Infotrade Portfolio network, which is separate from the Internet, costs £10 per month and online charges are 20p per minute. The service gives PC users access to real-time share prices supplied by the London Stock Exchange. The brokers City Deal, Sharelink and Stocktrade have joined the scheme and will process transactions through users' accounts. — *Cliff Jones*

NFC scraps double vote

NFC, the transport and distribution group once the pride of the UK's employee share-ownership movement, said yesterday it was cancelling the double vote which has applied to staff shares. Chairman Sir Christopher Bland, said it was "appropriate to our time" that NFC should have only one class of ordinary shares. Cancellation of the double vote comes six months after the employees' shareholding dropped to less than 10 per cent of the equity which triggered redemption of the special share which maintained the dual voting structure. — *Lisa Buckingham*

New legal twist in the Butte saga

Roger Cowe

THE saga of Butte Mining, which has kept lawyers in business for years, took a new turn yesterday when the company sued Simon Engineering for £100 million — a sum which the struggling engineering group certainly does not have.

Butte was floated on the Stock Exchange in 1987 to exploit a parcel of mining land in Montana. It subsequently added an adjacent property, taking the total cost to $175 million. The present directors, who were appointed in 1991, believe the land has little mining value and was originally acquired earlier in 1987 for just $3.5 million.

In 1992 Butte set about attempting to recover some of the profits made by the vendors, commencing a suit for $1 billion in Montana against 77 defendants.

The Serious Fraud Office made a lengthy investigation, which resulted in charges against three businessmen on counts of conspiracy to defraud investors who bought Butte shares.

Simon Engineering entered the picture in 1991 when it acquired the target of Butte's legal action, the Robertson Group. But the US judge ruled in January that Montana had no jurisdiction in the case, and earlier this month Simon won a High Court judgment making permanent an injunction preventing Butte pursuing the British company in the US courts.

Butte has now begun its action against Simon's Robertson subsidiaries in England, alleging fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, negligence and breach of contract.

Simon has other problems. Last month it reported its first profit since 1991, but also debts of £73 million which were almost as much as its shareholders' funds. Yesterday the group's shares fell 4p to 82p.

IATA conference: Profit at last but survival uncertain

Airlines' $1.8bn 'still not enough to reduce debt'

Keith Harper, Transport Editor in Kuala Lumpur

WORLD airlines have finally broken free from the disastrous effects of the Gulf war by making their first profit in six years.

The industry made an after-tax profit of $1.8 billion (£1.14 million) in 1994 and Pierre Jeanniot, director general of the International Air Transport Association, said a record $5.7 billion was expected this year.

But he said that the figure was not yet guaranteed, as a 1 per cent change in traffic or unit costs accounted for about $1.2 billion in profits.

For the first time, IATA's 235 airline members, including British Airways and British Midland, carried one billion passengers on scheduled services.

Of these, nearly a third were on international services, with the remaining 733 million on domestic routes. International passengers were up by 8.2 per cent and domestic by 6.4 per cent.

Delegates to the IATA conference in Kuala Lumpur were told yesterday that the industry could not be viewed as "some sleeping beauty" which had finally been awoken by "the prince of the market place". Mr Jeanniot said that this year's figure was still not good enough. The airlines needed to earn more to reduce their debt and invest more quickly in "fuel-efficient, environmentally friendly aircraft".

He estimated that civil aviation was worth at least $1,000 billion a year and 22 million jobs to the world's economy.

Mr Jeanniot said it was a very dangerous illusion to think that there would not be another recession, or that when it arrived airlines would have the flexibility to survive it. Corporate life had not been getting any easier and a growing number of people had to be reconciled.

Pressure increases to end aerial immunity from prosecution

AIRLINES are to press for a law to allow people to be prosecuted for assaults and other offences on board aircraft in British airspace, *Keith Harper writes.*

Only Australia and the US have laws allowing action to be taken where an offence has been committed in the air.

The board of airline representatives in the UK (Baruk) is to ask the Government to act. It is being supported by the International Air Transport Association which yesterday passed a draft resolution calling for the outlawing of such acts.

Delegates to its annual conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, described the situation as "a matter of over-riding international concern".

Sir Colin Marshall, chairman of British Airways, who was attending the Iata conference, said last night: "This is a problem which must be dealt with more effectively by international action. It is something which we as an airline fully support."

The result of a Baruk survey of known violations on board aircraft in British airspace will be presented to the Home Office next month. If the Government refuses to take action, Baruk is likely to seek a private member's bill to force a decision.

Pierre Jeanniot, Iata's general secretary, said that the fight against unlawful interference with passengers never ceases. Unlawful incidents were gradually increasing because of the growing number of passengers, which is due to double in 10 years.

He described the industry's security efforts last year as low and criticised countries which did not have specific legislation to deal with such crimes.

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Golf

Cejka victory provides fitting end to a year of excitement

David Davies looks back on a memorable season for a young German and for the Scots who shone brightest of all the stars

ALEXANDER Cejka's win in the Volvo Masters at Valderrama on Sunday was of a piece with the season. A victory by a young, almost unknown but exceedingly talented golfer was absolutely right after a year in which the excitement had been continuous.

That Cejka, at only 24, was able to take on the hardened likes of Colin Montgomerie, Ian Woosnam, Sam Torrance and Anders Forsbrand under conditions of extreme pressure — and over the toughest course in Europe — said all that needs to be said about his temperament.

Throughout the last round there was an air of confidence about him, a bounce in his walk, an eagerness that never became impatience, and the result was five birdies in the last nine holes. That gave him a round of 70, for a two-under-par total of 282, beating Montgomerie by two and Sam Torrance and David Gilford by three.

When the final 10-foot birdie putt fell and he knew he could not be caught, Cejka leapt high in the air, totally carried away; and why not?

He had won twice earlier this year but he and everyone else knew that those were apprentice victories against less than full fields. Now he had graduated, and with honours, and he should become a valuable asset in Europe's battle to retain the Ryder Cup when it is staged at Valderrama in two years' time. Should he become a part of that team he will, needless to say, be the first Czech-born naturalised German to play in the side.

Cejka works hard at the game and with his friend and coach Peter Karz goes to an indoor golf school in Munich. "We work there sometimes until two or three in the morning, analysing the swing, hitting balls into a net," he said. "If you can get positive in your head and then have a little bit of luck, it should be okay."

The win lifted him to sixth place in the Order of Merit and it should get him into three of the major championships next year. "They will be my first," he said, and from the grin on his face it was obvious he was looking forward to them.

The majors this year have been almost as good as it is possible to get. Admittedly a European has not won any of them but this is no time for narrow parochialism. Ben Crenshaw's Augusta victory, the week after his life-long mentor Harvey Penick died, and his subsequent tears on the final green were as poignant as anything in sport.

Corey Pavin, in the US Open, proved that David does still occasionally find the right pebble to slay Goliath — Greg Norman — and in the Open itself the game's freest spirit won at its most hidebound venue. John Daly versus the course at St Andrews was rarely a contest: he simply overpowered it. The formula to win on the Old Course is to go long and left. Daly went longer and lefter than anyone had ever been able to, and won when Costantino Rocca self-destructed in that dramatic play-off.

Europe's best chance of a major was to be the USPGA, where Montgomerie certainly deserved to win but was beaten by a 20-foot birdie putt by Steve Elkington on the first extra hole. One cannot legislate for such things, and on Sunday the Scot proved his ability over the longer haul when he won, for the third time in a row, the Volvo Order of Merit.

Only Severiano Ballesteros has done as much; only Peter Oosterhuis, with four, has done more, although the sum total of Oosterhuis's winnings in those four years was under £100,000. On Sunday Montgomerie took his money for the year to £835,051, won in a total of 71 rounds, which means almost £12,000 per round he has played this year.

Montgomerie's achievement is considerable; that of the Swede Annika Sorenstam amazing. She topped the money list both in America, where she also won the US Women's Open, and in Europe. No one, male or female, has ever done that before and probably none will do it again.

In normal circumstances Sorenstam would be a certainty to win the annual poll of the Association of Golf Writers for the man, woman or team that has done most for European golf. But 1995 was not normal circumstances; it was a year in which the Walker and Ryder Cups were both won, and, as the Curtis Cup was retained last year, there is only the Solheim Cup remaining over there.

There was something for all the home nations in those cup wins. There was not a Welshman playing in the Walker Cup, but by common consent within the team the captain Clive Brown, from Portmadoc, did as good a job as could be done. So did the venue, the magnificent Royal Porthcawl — as good a test as there is in the British Isles.

The Irish could look to the performances of Padraig Harrington and Jody Fanagan in the Walker Cup — all the more welcome for being relatively unexpected — and the fact of Philip Walton becoming the third Irishman after Eamonn Darcy in 1987 and Christy O'Connor in 1989 to win the vital Ryder Cup point.

England could take heart from Gary Wolstenholme beating Tiger Woods, the world's most publicised teenager, in the Walker Cup singles, and could glory in Nick Faldo's on-course performance in the Ryder Cup. His putt to win against Curtis Strange, after being one down and two to play, was in the circumstances the putt of the year.

If the others done good, though, the Scots done great. Not only did they unearth a genuine hope for the future in the Amateur champion Gordon Sherry, they also revelled, as only Scots can, in the spectacle of the Volvo Order of Merit being dominated by two of their number, Montgomerie and Torrance.

Sherry was an important force in that Walker Cup win, a huge presence both physically and inspirationally, and he will be a welcome addition to the professional scene after the US Masters in April.

But there was just a touch of sadness at Valderrama after Montgomerie had won the Order of Merit. Torrance, who had finished almost two hours earlier, sat and watched his rival on a television in the press centre, knowing that "all" Montgomerie had to do was play the last nine holes in one under par.

"I fancy him to do it," he said when Montgomerie was on the 11th. And so, eventually, he did.

Torrance, who has never won the Order, had missed out again in his 25th season on tour. He sat in front of the telly for a while after Montgomerie had holed the final putt, his wife Suzanne smiling sadly by his side. There were reporters all around the couple with searching questions to ask, such as: "How do you feel, Sam?"

But as he got to his feet someone said, "Let him go, lads," and out he went. He will, of course, get over it and he has, of course, £755,706 with which to console himself. But how much of that, one wonders, would he swap to be able to say, after all this time, "Sam Torrance, European No. 1."

● Faldo and Bernhard Langer have pulled out of this week's Alfred Dunhill Masters in Indonesia "because of family commitments", the organisers said yesterday. Cejka is among those taking part.

Faldo played in the Tour Championship which ended in Tulsa on Sunday night, finishing 11 shots behind the winner, Billy Mayfair of the United States, but Langer has been afflicted by a back injury all season.

In the money . . . joy as Montgomerie tops Order of Merit

Winning in style . . . Cejka celebrates his birdie putt at the 18th PHOTOGRAPHS: ENRIQUE SHORE

The facts and figures

Leading final places in the 1995 Volvo European Tour Order of Merit, after addition of bonus-pool money (figure in parentheses indicate tournaments played):

1. C Montgomerie (Scot) (20) £835,051.40
2. S Torrance (Scot) (26) £755,706.28
3. B Langer (Ger) (15) £655,854.17
4. C Rocca (Italy) (24) £516,320.29
5. M Campbell (NZ) (21) £400,977.33
6. A Cejka (Ger) (23) £308,114.99
7. M James (Eng) (26) £297,377.84
8. B Lane (Eng) (24) £284,408.13
9. A Forsbrand (Swe) (20) £281,726.17
10. P O'Malley (Aus) (21) £260,726.67
11. W Riley (Aus) (27) £256,932.43
12. H Clark (Eng) (21) £242,088.88
13. P Walton (Ire) (24) £234,106.39
14. D Clarke (NIre) (27) £226,175.42
15. D Gilford (Eng) (23) £220,048.83
16. J Rivero (Spain) (21) £209,238.20
17. J Parnevik (Swe) (6) £207,254.11
18. P Broadhurst (Eng) (30) £200,542.66
19. P-U Johansson (Swe) (21) £188,859.17
20. F Nobilo (NZ) (18) £185,831.33

Best of the Tour:
Lowest round: 61 (-11) Alexander Cejka (Hohe Brucke Open); 61 (-11) Russell Claydon (German Masters).
Lowest first 36: 127 (-17) Claydon (German Masters).
Lowest first 54: 195 (-21) Anders Forsbrand (German Masters).
Lowest total: 264 (-24) Forsbrand (German Masters).
Highest winning score: 282 (-6) Jarmo Sandelin (Canaries Open); 282 (-6) John Daly (Open Championship); 282 (-2) Cejka (Volvo Masters).
Biggest win: Eight shots Paul Broadhurst (French Open).
Lowest start by winner: 61 (-11) Cejka (Hohe Brucke Open).
Highest start by winner: 74 (+2) Sandelin (Canaries Open); 74 (+2) Greg Turner (Balearic Open); 74 (+2) Bernhard Langer (European Open); 74 (+3) Cejka (Volvo Masters).
Lowest finish by winner: 63 (-9) Broadhurst (French Open).
Highest finish by winner: 73 (+1) Peter O'Malley (Benson and Hedges).
Lowest halfway cut: 140 (-2) German Open.
Highest halfway cut: 150 (+6) Catalan Open.
Albatrosses: Three — Jose-Maria Canizares (Andalucian); Per Haugsrud (French); Peter Baker (German Masters).
Play-offs: Five — Adam Hunter bt Darren Clarke (Portuguese, 1st hole); Philip Walton bt Colin Montgomerie (English, 2nd); Sam Torrance bt Howard Clark/Stuart Cage (Irish, 2nd); Daly bt Costantino Rocca (Open, 4 holes); Langer bt Barry Lane (European Open 2nd).
First-time tour winners: 12 — Fred Couples (Dubai); Santiago Luna (Madeira); Sandelin (Canaries); Robert Karlsson (Open Mediterrania); Cejka (Andalusian); Hunter (Portuguese); Andre Bossert (Cannes); Wayne Riley (Scottish); Daly (Open); Scott Hoch (Dutch); Peter Teravainen (Czech); Mathias Gronberg (European Masters).
Most wins: Three — Sam Torrance (Italian, Irish, British Masters); Langer (Volvo PGA, Deutsche Bank European Open, European Open); Cejka (Andalusian Open, Hohe Brucke Open, Volvo Masters).
Course records: 23.
Holes-in-one: 21.
Consecutive years with a win: 17 Langer (1979-95).
Longest run without missing a cut: 68 Langer (1991-1995).
Best stroke average: 69.69 Montgomerie.
Most birdies: 388 Torrance.
Most eagles: 16 Gary Orr, Darren Clarke, Peter Mitchell.
Most under par: -146 Montgomerie.

Racing

Trigger-happy Down Under

Ken Oliver

MARK JOHNSTON, the Middleham trainer, flew out to Australia last night to supervise Double Trigger's final preparations in his attempt to become the first British-trained horse to land the Melbourne Cup.

Double Trigger, who carries top weight in the two mile handicap on November 7, has been in Australia for nearly two weeks and has settled in really well.

Johnston, a qualified vet, said: "He's in great heart, all his feed went with him and he is eating well. Everything seems fine."

Last year, Johnston was disappointed with Quick Ransom's effort in the Melbourne race when the gelding finished 23rd of 24 behind Jeune.

"Naturally, we are hoping Double Trigger will be in the money, but we have no new plans. The only difference from last year is that he has gone out a shade later than Quick Ransom."

The bookmakers think the time is right for a British victory. William Hill make Double Trigger 4-1 favourite, followed by 7-1 Storm, 8-1 Quick Ransom, who is now trained in Australia by Lee Freedman. Jeune is 10-1 to complete the double, while Dermot Weld's Vintage Crop, the 1993 victor, is quoted at 14-1.

At Exeter today, Travado looks good for his second successive win in the Plymouth Gin Haldon Gold Cup Chase.

Nicky Henderson's nine-year-old, who beat Absalom's Lady by an easy three lengths last season, went on to finish runner-up to Viking Flagship in the two-mile Tingle Creek at Sandown.

He disappointed when tried over three miles in the King George at Kempton on Boxing Day, falling when well beaten, and then ended the season by finishing a distant eighth to Viking Flagship in the Queen Mother Champion Chase at Cheltenham in March.

It was a rather disappointing season for such a classy performer, but Henderson has high hopes that Travado (3.00) will fare much better this time round.

The meeting can open with a win for Bell One (1.30) in the Normans Retail Novice Hurdle. He has not been out since running the useful Conquering Leader to two and a half lengths at Wincanton in January, but that form is far superior to that of his rivals, who look very moderate.

Henrietta Knight has a knack of getting the best out of a horse with potential and she can work the oracle again with Master Orchestra in the Whitbread Novice Handicap Chase.

The main stumbling block here could be top weight Polden Pride, who is on a four-timer, but there was much to like about Master Orchestra's initial run for Knight at Bangor three weeks ago.

After being pulled up in both his races last season when trained by Mark Bradstock, Master Orchestra (4.00), a winning point-to-pointer in Ireland, ran and jumped well when beaten three lengths by Addington Boy and looks all set to go one better.

Richard Hannon's horses had a lean time for a while because of a virus in the stable, but they have gradually regained their form.

The Marlborough trainer has some bright chances at Redcar this afternoon, including Apache Len (2.15), Vaugrenier (2.45) and Bunty Boo (4.15).

Dettori returns with a winner

FRANKIE DETTORI, back in action in Britain for the first time in 17 days after serving a suspension and riding abroad, did not have to wait long for a winner, guiding his third mount, Shemozzle, to victory in Newcastle's Alnwick Maiden Stakes.

By coincidence Dettori's last winner in Britain was on the same horse at Newmarket on October 13.

Jockey turned trainer Chris Dwyer had his first winner from his first runner over jumps when Dusty Point won the Catford Hurdle at Plumpton.

Exeter (N.H.)

1.30 Bell One (nap)
2.00 Little Hooligan
2.30 Peter Monamy
3.00 Travado
3.30 Chickabiddy
4.00 Master Orchestra
4.30 Vallingale

★ Denotes blinkers. Going: Good to firm
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since latest N.H. outing

1.30 NORMANS RETAIL NOVICES' HURDLE 2m 1f 110yds £2,716

1	00/3F62- AMAZING AIR (402) F Jordan 5-11-0	Mr S Blackwell
2	543/422- BELL ONE (282) A Dunn 6-11-0	Peter Hobbs
3	//0225/- CASPIAN BELUGA (830) S Knight 7-11-0	S Burrough
4	CRACKING PROSPECT B Millman 4-11-0	D Salter (5)
5	GEEWAY N Waller 5-11-0	J Railton
6	H. SAURO Mrs R Henderson 5-11-0	Mr W Henderson
7	0/-0 MAI PEN RAI (19) R Hodges 7-11-0	T Dascombe (7)
8	553-4 TIGHT FIST (34) Miss H Knight 5-11-0	J F Titley
9	00- ORCHARD LADY (340) R Alner 5-10-9	Sophie Mitchell (5)
10	05 WHARFEDALE MUSIC (5) M Pipe 4-10-9	D Bridgwater

Betting: 5-2 Tight Fist, 3-1 Bell One, 4-1 Wharfedale Music, 6-1 Caspian Beluga, 8-1 Cracking Prospect, Amazing Air, 10-1 Mai Pen Rai. 10 runners.

2.00 CARLSBERG-TETLEY NOVICES' HANDICAP HURDLE 2m 3f £2,067

1	U0/825-4 DARING KING (20) M Bolton 5-11-10	P Hide
2	040P- RED POINT (198) K Bishop 4-11-4	M Moran (7)
3	0/F6F0P- YES MAN (197) Miss H Knight 6-11-3	J F Titley
4	1540P1 LITTLE HOOLIGAN (13) (C) G Edwards 4-10-9	A P McCoy ★
5	FF5/P-02 GEORGE LANE (12) F Jordan 7-10-8	J Lodder
6	60P-5 HIGHTOWN CAVALIER (6) R Hodges 4-10-5	T Dascombe (7)

Betting: 9-4 Little Hooligan, 4-1 Daring King, George Lane, 9-2 Yes Man, 6-1 Red Point, 8-1 Hightown Cavalier. 6 runners.

2.30 HARTOCK FREE TRADERS NOVICE SELL HDLE 3YO 2m 1f 110yds £1,894

1	22152 GIGFY (22) (D) B Llewellyn 11-5	Mr J L Llewellyn
2	0 COASTGUARDS HAVEN (19) M Bolton 10-12	P Hide
3	4 LAWBUSTER (16) M Wilkinson 10-12	R Supple
4	LESS PLEASE K Cunningham-Brown 10-12	A P McCoy
5	PETER MONAMY M Pipe 10-12	D Bridgwater
6	BALLYSHEILA G Charles-Jones 10-7	W McFarland ★
7	P HUSH CROSS (66) S Knight 10-7	S Burrough
8	MAYBE TODAY B Millman 10-7	D Salter (5)
9	R NOBLE BALLERINA (6) A Jarvis 10-7	A Maguire

Betting: Evens Peter Monamy, 2-1 Gigfy, 8-1 Noble Ballerina, 12-1 Less Please, Maybe Today, 14-1 Hush Cross. 9 runners.

3.00 PLYMOUTH GIN HALDON GOLD CUP CHASE 2m 1f 110yds £15,700

1	22/12F0- TRAVADO (230) (C) (D) N Henderson 9-11-6	J Osborne
2	U111/12- GHIA GNEUIAGH (361) N Twiston-Davies 9-11-0	D Bridgwater
3	1U1269- MEDINAS SWAN SONG (217) R Hodges 7-11-0	A Tory
4	3U3313 STARLAP (17) R Buckler 11-11-0	B Powell
5	401-215 WHAT'S IN ORBIT (3) (D) P Nicholls 10-11-0	A P McCoy

Betting: 4-5 Travado, 7-2 Ghia Gneuiagh, 4-1 What's In Orbit, 8-1 Medinas Swan Song, 12-1 Starlap. 5 runners.

3.30 ST AUSTELL BREWERY MARES' ONLY HANDICAP HURDLE 2m 3f £2,807

1	552410- EVANGELICA (200) M Pipe 5-12-0	D Bridgwater
2	4-13432 CHICKABIDDY (18) (CD) (BF) G Edwards 7-10-11	M A Fitzgerald
3	13-302F JUST ROSIE (11) (C) A Jones 6-10-11	S McNeill
4	41250-F TAMERGALE (8) (D) N Twiston-Davies 5-10-8	T Jenks
5	5110-35 DULZURA (3) (BF) A Jarvis 7-10-0	A Maguire
6	10005-0 PERSISTENT GUNNER (3) R Hodges 5-10-0	W McFarland
7	F6013/- RUN FAST FOR GOLD (960) Miss H Knight 8-10-0	J Osborne
8	02143-4 MINSTER'S MADAM (14) Mrs L Murphy 4-10-0	W Marston ★
9	0/P00-4 ALACISE (20) R Alner 5-10-0	Mr P Henley (7)
10	00000-2 KOO'S PROMISE (20) C Popham 4-10-0	T Dascombe (7)

Betting: 5-1 Evangelica, 7-2 Chickabiddy, 5-1 Just Rosie, Tamergale, 8-1 Dulzura, Minster's Madam. 10 runners.

4.00 WHITBREAD NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE 2m 5f 110yds £2,945

1	043111 POLDEN PRIDE (12) G Balding 7-11-10	A P McCoy
2	1100U-F CERTAIN ANGLE (30) (BF) P Hobbs 6-11-7	G Tormey (3)
3	PP-2 MASTER ORCHESTRA (34) Miss H Knight 6-11-5	J F Titley
4	5/-2214 FENWICK (13) R Hodges 8-11-2	A Tory
5	P22-341 CELTIC LAIRD (10) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-1	W Marston
6	0264-33 BISHOPS CASTLE (23) R Frost 7-11-0	J Frost
7	444-455 COOL CHARACTER (10) R Buckler 7-10-3	B Powell
8	4P455-0 DEVIOSITY (13) N Ayliffe 8-10-2	R Farrant
9	0843/6-0 SO AUDACIOUS (13) N Gaselee 7-10-0	J R Kavanagh
10	P004P-0 MONKS JAY (6) G Thorner 8-10-0	J A McCarthy
11	PP/0025- RHORA ROSE (159) P Rodford 7-10-0	S Burrough
12	0000/PP- CASTLE ORCHARD (278) P Hayward 11-10-0	S Righton (7)
13	6PP-P LAURA'S FLUTTER (13) Mrs P Dutfield 8-10-0	P Holley

Betting: 2-1 Polden Pride, 5-1 Celtic Laird, Master Orchestra, 6-1 Fenwick, 7-1 Certain Angle, 12-1 Bishops Castle, 16-1 Cool Character. 13 runners.

4.30 LEVY BOARD MARES' ONLY OPEN NH FLAT 2m 1f 110yds £1,329

1	CHESTER'S CHAT M Pipe 5-11-4	J Lower
2	CHOICE BAR P Hobbs 5-11-4	Peter Hobbs
3	COUNTRY CHOICE M Sheppard 5-11-4	Mr R Johnson (5)
4	DEBBIE'S DARLING M Pipe 5-11-4	D Bridgwater
5	MADAM'S WALK N Twiston-Davies 5-11-4	S Joynes (7)
6	MOLLIE'S MODEL W Turner 5-11-4	M Griffiths (7)
7	PAVLOVA R Rowe 5-11-4	D O'Sullivan
8	TRELAWNEYS DREAM P Nicholls 5-11-4	A P McCoy
9	WATERCOMBE SPIRIT S Stevens 5-11-4	Mr T Greed
10	240 CORDY SOUR (25) P Murphy 4-11-3	E Murphy
11	MARQUEY'S GORSE R Buckler 4-11-3	Mr G Baines (7)
12	5 PRESTIGE LADY (34) B Smart 4-11-3	M Molloy (7)
13	QUISAO K Bailey 4-11-3	T J Murphy (3)
14	SUPREME KELLYCARRA J Gifford 4-11-3	L Aspell (7)
15	0 VALLINGALE (24) Miss H Knight 4-11-3	G Ryan (5)

Betting: 2-1 Madam's Walk, 7-1 Chester's Chat, Debbie's Darling, 8-1 Trelawneys Dream, Quisao, 10-1 Supreme Kellycarra. 15 runners.

● Blinkered today for the first time: REDCAR: 2.45 Eurolink Mischief; 3.45 Cerise, Tarry. EXETER: 2.30 Ballysheila.

Redcar runners and riders with form guide

1.45 Awayil
2.15 Apache Len (nb)
2.45 Vaugrenier
3.15 Essayeffsee
3.45 Jerry Cutrona
4.15 Bunty Boo

Draw: High numbers favoured straight course.
★ Denotes blinkers. Going: Good to firm
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since latest outing
Jackpot & Placepot: All six races.

1.45 OAK LIMITED STAKES 6f £2,789

101	240104 ANZIO (14) (D) B Pearce 4-9-5	T Ives 2
102	210002 KING RAT (7) (C) (D) T Etherington 4-9-5	C Rutter 5★
103	001000 CHAMPAGNE GRANDY (14) (D) M Channon 5-9-4	P P Murphy (5) 10
104	650000 FRENCH GRIT (24) (C) (D) M Dods 3-9-1	D McKeown 9
105	012000 TILER (31) (D) M Johnston 3-9-1	J Reid 7
106	604400 CALL ME I'M BLUE (10) (CD) N Tinkler 5-9-0	Kim Tinkler 4
107	050032 HIGHBORN (24) (D) P Felgate 6-9-0	K Darley 3
108	405504 PALACEGATE TOUCH (34) (D) J Berry 5-9-0	J Carroll 6★
109	536-R00 SERGNEURIAL (10) G Harwood 3-8-12	A Clark 11
110	03-615 AWAYIL (48) (D) H Thomson Jones 3-8-10	G Carter 1
111	000050 DAUNTLESS FORT (107) (D) Mrs V Aconley 4-8-8	M Deering 8

11 runners

TOP FORM TIPS: Highborn 8, Awayil 7, Champagne Grandy 6

No corresponding meeting

Betting: 9-2 Highborn, 5-1 Call Me I'm Blue, Palacegate Touch, 6-1 Awayil, 7-1 King Rat, Champagne Grandy, 8-1 Anzio, 10-1 Tiler.

FORM GUIDE – ANZIO: Always prominent, one pace final f, 1l 4th, to Bajan Rose, with CHAMPAGNE GRANDY (gv 3lb), behind until good late headway, 3l 7th (Chepstow 6f, Sft).
FRENCH GRIT: In competitive handicap last time when close up until weakened over 2f out, 14th of 23, btn about 10l to Comanche Companion (York 7f, Gd).
HIGHBORN: Best ever effort last time when headway 2f out, soon challenged and ran on, 2nd of 23, btn hd by Double Bounce (York 6f, Gd).
PALACEGATE TOUCH: Below best recently, last time chased leaders, found nothing under pressure final f, 4th of 5, btn 8l to Takadou (Newcastle 5f, Gd).
SERGNEURIAL: Showed signs of a return to form last time when prominent until weakened 2f out, 8th of 10, btn under 3l to Croft Pool (Doncaster 5f, Gd-Fm).
AWAYIL: Ran well on latest start, held up behind, good late headway, finished well, 5th of 18, btn about 2l to Be Warned (Yarmouth 6f, Gd).

2.15 EBF BIRCH MAIDEN STAKES 2YO 7f £4,042

201	62 APACHE LEN (6) R Hannon 9-0	J Reid 9
202	6 DOCTOR BRAVIOUS (30) M Bell 9-0	M Fenton 4
203	3 MAGIC MILL (34) F O'Mahony 9-0	S D Williams 2
204	0 MARSAYAS (45) M Camacho 9-0	L Charnock 3
205	00 NORTHERN MOTTO (30) Mrs J Ramsden 9-0	K Fallon 6
206	4 CLASSIC BEAUTY (18) S Williams 8-9	A Mackay 5
207	GREEN GEM (BEL) S Williams 8-9	K Darley 8
208	0 PATRIO (8) M Johnston 8-9	T Williams 1
209	50 STRATEGIC PLOY (19) Mrs J Ramsden 8-9	S Sanders 7

9 runners

TOP FORM TIPS: Apache Len 9, Magic Mill 7, Strategic Ploy 6

Betting: 7-4 Apache Len, 7-2 Magic Mill, 5-1 Doctor Bravious, 6-1 Classic Beauty, 8-1 Northern Motto, Strategic Ploy, 10-1 Patrio.

FORM GUIDE – APACHE LEN: Driven along two, ran on well in side final furlong, beaten 2l by Dance On A Cloud (Leicester 7f, Frm).
DOCTOR BRAVIOUS: Headway over 2f out, not reach leaders, 6th of 14, btn 7l, to Carburton (Haydock 7f, Sft).
MAGIC MILL: Ran well on debut, headway and hampered over 1f out, switched and ran on well, 5l 3rd of 11 to Insatiable (Newcastle 7f, Gd).
STRATEGIC PLOY: Slowly away and never placed to challenge on latest outing when 10th of 12, btn 11l to Green Charter (Redcar 7f, Fm).

2.45 SYCAMORE HANDICAP 3YO 1m 3f £3,971

301	314260 VAUGRENIER (14) R Hannon 9-7	J Reid 2
302	321234 EUROLINK MISCHIEF (32) (BF) L Cumani 9-6	K Darley 1★
303	123020 HAND WOVEN (23) W Haggas 9-3	J Carroll 4
304	608122 CONTRAFIRE (47) (D) W Jarvis 9-1	S Sanders 6
305	922 KALAMATA (18) (BF) A Stewart 8-10	S Whitworth 5
306	022000 DANCING DESTINY (15) R Bastiman 7-12	L Charnock 7
307	042215 TRUMBLE (45) C Thornton 7-7	P Fessey (5) 3

7 runners

TOP FORM TIPS: Contrafire 8, Vaugrenier 7

Betting: 2-1 Eurolink Mischief, 3-1 Contrafire, 5-1 Vaugrenier, Kalamata, 6-1 Hand Woven, 12-1 Dancing Destiny, 16-1 Trumble.

FORM GUIDE – VAUGRENIER: On latest start prominent until weakened over 1f out, 20l 8th of 18 to Snow Princess (Chepstow 1m4f, Sft).
EUROLINK MISCHIEF: Under top weight last time when always prominent, not quicken final f, 4th of 9, btn 3l to Maghdool (Goodwood 1m4f, Gd).
HAND WOVEN: In touch, driven along 4f out, one pace, 10th of 16, btn about 14l, to Danjing (Newmarket 1m4f, Gd).
CONTRAFIRE: Led over 2f out to 1f out, kept on, 2nd of 14, btn 1l, to Keep Your Distance (Ayr 1m3f, Gd).
KALAMATA: Creditable effort on latest start, effort 2f out, stayed on well, 2nd of 5, btn 2l by Anjou (Catterick 1m4f, Gd-Fm).

3.15 POPLAR HANDICAP 1m 3f £3,712

401	0-21330 COURBUR (24) J Bethell 6-10-0	T Ives 7
402	241504 GUESSTIMATION (7) (D) J Pearce 6-9-13	C Drowne (3) 1
403	294000 FAIRY KNIGHT (12) (D) R Hannon 3-9-12	J Reid 8
404	602603 UNPREJUDICE (15) M Hammond 4-9-11	M Tebbutt 15
405	06-0608 EFIZIA (7) (C) (D) Mrs M Reveley 5-9-10	S Copp (7) 17
406	4-45100 HIMALAYAN BLUE (164) (D) J Banks 3-9-8	J Quinn 10
407	00-4400 BELAK (21) J L Harris 3-9-6	J F Egan 3
408	605100 RAFTER-J (6) J A Harris 4-8-6	K Fallon 9
409	612250 ESSAYEFFSEE (13) (CD) Mrs M Reveley 6-8-4	K Darley 13
410	424600 LARN FORT (31) (D) C Fairhurst 5-8-3	L Charnock 6★
411	026000 CAERLE LAD (28) D Nicholls 4-8-3	Alex Greaves 5
412	223000 NORTHERN TROVE (11) Ron Thompson 3-8-0	T Williams 2
413	061056 BOBANLYN (7) (CD) D Morris 3-8-12	S Maloney 16
414	107050 PINE ESSENCE (13) (CD) J Eyre 4-8-10	R Lappin 14
415	000-000 WAHEM (277) C Britain 5-7-11	M Henry (5) 12
416	100062 HUNZA STORY (7) (D) N Littmoden 3-7-11	C Adamson (5) 11
417	320364 BARDIA (7) (D) Don Enrico Incisa 5-7-8	Kim Tinkler 4

17 runners

TOP FORM TIPS: Essayeffsee 8, Unprejudice 7, Guesstimation 6

Betting: 5-1 Unprejudice, 7-1 Guesstimation, 8-1 Courbur, Fairy Knight, Essayeffsee, 10-1 Efizia.

FORM GUIDE - GUESSTIMATION: 6th straight, one pace final 2f, 4th of 14, btn 3l to Rival Bid (Leicester 1m2f, Fm).
CAERLE LAD: Having first race for new stable here, last time prominent until weakened over 1f out, 10th of 20, btn 12l to Rival Bid (Warwick 1m2f, Gd-Sft).
NORTHERN TROVE: Never went pace on latest start when 18th of 21, btn about 12l to Master Charter (Doncaster 7f, Gd-Fm).
UNPREJUDICE: In touch, stayed on well final 2f, 3rd of 17, btn about 15l to Our Main Man with ESSAYEFFSEE (rec 8lb), effort on inside over 2f out, not much room, no danger after, 7l 7th, with PINE ESSENCE (lvl), prominent until weakened over 2f out, 16l 14th (Pontefract 1m2f, Fm).

3.45 BIRCH NURSERY HANDICAP 2YO 1m £3,857

501	002042 DAUNTING DESTINY (8) R Hannon 9-7	D O'Neill (5) 14
502	6004 PHANTOM HAZE (11) Miss S Hall 8-12	M Birch 4
503	04003 JERRY CUTRONA (13) N Callaghan 8-9	J F Egan 1
504	0600 INFLUENCE PEDLER (12) C Brittain 8-9	J Quinn 3
505	12450 JIMJAREER (26) Capt J Wilson 8-9	S D Williams 15
506	43602 LA FINALE (34) M H Easterby 8-8	K Fallon 8
507	016002 TARRY (16) C Williams 8-7	G Carter 9★
508	600 KENILWORTH DANCER (11) Mrs M Reveley 8-4	K Darley 9
509	000 TABLETS OF STONE (12) J Bosley 8-2	C Rutter 13
510	003500 AZTEC FLYER (16) Mrs M Reveley 8-2	Dale Gibson 10
511	038005 LAWNSWOOD CAPTAIN (16) R Hollinshead 8-0	F Lynch (7) 12
512	035500 LA FANDANGO (19) M W Easterby 8-0	S Maloney 7
513	000 DOUBLE CHECK (12) M Johnston 7-13	T Williams 11
514	840400 CERISE (27) W Elsey 7-11	P Fessey (5) 2★
515	0000 NO MORE HASSLE (19) Mrs M Reveley 7-7	L Charnock 5
516	400 AUTOFYR (28) J Wainwright 7-7	N Kennedy 16

16 runners

TOP FORM TIPS: Jerry Cutrona 8, Tarry 7, Daunting Destiny 6

Betting: 9-2 Daunting Destiny, 5-1 La Finale, 6-1 Jerry Cutrona, Tarry, 7-1 Phantom Haze, 12-1 Jimjareer.

FORM GUIDE - JERRY CUTRONA: Ran well from bad draw on latest start, headway far side, stayed on inside final f, 5l 3rd of 18 to Nosey Native (Yarmouth 1m, Gd-Fm).
TARRY: Tried in blinkers last time when effort 2f out, stayed on, not reach winner, 1l 2nd of 18 to Ancestral Jane, with LAWNSWOOD CAPTAIN (rec 5lb), effort 2f out, kept on one pace, 6l 5th, with AZTEC FLYER (gv 3lb), behind from halfway, 19l 13th (Pontefract 1m, Fm).
TABLETS OF STONE: In well-contested maiden last time when prominent until weakened in straight, 12th of 19, btn about 20l to Dushyantor (Nottingham 1m, Gd-Fm).
CERISE: Never reached leaders on latest start when 10th of 13, btn about 20l to Prince Of My Heart (York 1m, Gd).
NO MORE HASSLE: In competitive seller last time when never dangerous, 14th of 27, btn about 13l to Domettes (Newmarket 7f, Gd-Fm).
AUTOFYR: In claimer last time when never dangerous 15th of 28, btn about 15l to Napoleon's Return (Redcar 7f, Fm).

4.15 ASH CONDITIONS STAKES 6f £5,384

601	106100 BUNTY BOO (12) (D) R Hannon 6-9-7	D O'Neill (5) 1
602	350040 LAGO DI VARANO (24) (D) J Berry 3-9-3	J Carroll 3★
603	520106 DON'T WORRY ME (17) (CD) F Lee 3-8-13	K Darley 4
604	262110 PORTELET (38) (D) R Guest 3-8-8	G Duffield 2

4 runners

TOP FORM TIPS: Bunty Boo 10, Portelet 8

Betting: 4-5 Bunty Boo, 7-2 Portelet, 9-2 Lago Di Varano, Don't Worry Me.

FORM GUIDE - BUNTY BOO: Useful at best, ran last for 4l on latest start when 11th of 16, btn about 10l to Domulla (Newbury 6f, Gd-Sft).
LAGO DI VARANO: Showed signs of a return to form last time in competitive handicap, never nearer 8th of 24, btn 8l to Coastal Bluff (Ascot 6f, Sft).
DON'T WORRY ME: Very speedy sort, on latest start ran fast on stands' side until weakened inside final f, 12l 8th of 12 to Croft Pool (Newmarket 5f, Gd-Fm).
PORTELET: Successful in Ayr handicap prior to disappointing last time when prominent until weakened 3f out, last of 18, btn about 9l to Croft Pool (Haydock 5f, Gd).

Results

NEWCASTLE

1.30 (7f): 1, NORTHERN SPARK, G Duffield (12-1); 2, Miletrian (9-4 fav); 3, [illegible] (8-1); 4, Thwaab (16-1). 20 ran. 1¾, 2¾. (Miss L Perratt) Tote: £10.00; £2.00, £1.10, £1.90, £6.60. Dual F: £25.30. CSF: £40.12. Tricast: £230.03. Trio: £33.00.

2.00 (6f): 1, PIVOTAL, G Duffield (2-1); 2, Dominet Amarsa (2-1); 3, Mansab (7-4 fav). 12 ran. 2¾, 5. (M Prescott) Tote: £2.90; £1.60, £1.10, £1.40. Dual F: £8.20. CSF: £6.68. Trio: £1.20.

2.30 (7f): 1, SHEMOZZLE, L Dettori (15-8 fav); 2, Abir (5-2); 3, Arcady (14-1). 14 ran. 1¾, 2. (J Gosden) Tote: £2.20; £1.60, £1.60, £1.90. Dual F: £4.30. CSF: £7.08. Trio: £10.00. NR: Veronica Franco.

3.00 (5f): 1, LEADING PRINCESS, P Fessey (12-1); 2, Jucea (6-1); 3, Domicksky (13-2). 5-2 fav Lady Sheriff. 14 ran. 1¾, nk. (Miss L Perratt) Tote: £21.00; £4.50, £2.30, £1.60. Dual F: £82.20. CSF: £80.09. Tricast: £474.03.

3.30 (7f): 1, QUALITY, Emma O'Gorman (9-2 co fav); 2, Oleanson (9-2 co fav); 3, Tadlya (6-1). 9-2 co fav Bee Health Boy. 8 ran. 3, 2¾. (W O'Gorman) Tote: £5.30; £1.90, £2.40, £1.60. Dual F: £14.50. CSF: £24.81. Tricast: £114.10.

4.00 (6f): 1, DOUBLE SPLENDOUR, G Hind (5-2 fav); 2, Stuffed (13-2); 3, Slivovitz (10-1); 4, Stand Tall (33-1). 20 ran. Nk, ¾. (P Felgate) Tote: £3.40; £1.70, £2.20, £3.20, £6.60. Dual F: £9.60. CSF: £21.48. Tricast: £148.69. Trio: £181.50.

JACKPOT: Not won; £24,398.48 carried forward to Redcar today.
QUADPOT: £20.90.
PLACEPOT: £39.00.

PLUMPTON

1.45 (2m 1f Hdle): 1, ROYAL THIMBLE, Mr R Johnson (6-1); 2, Mister O'Grady (3-1); 3, Amber Valley (2-1 fav). 13 ran. 10, 12. (N Chance) Tote: £7.20; £1.30, £1.70, £1.80. Dual F: £11.70. CSF: £24.81. Trio: £5.60.

2.15 (2m 1f Hdle): 1, DONTDRESSFORDINNER, T Dascombe (14-1); 2, Sharp Gazelle (5-2); 3, Assembly Dancer (50-1). 7-4 fav Lord Glenvara. 11 ran. 11, 6. (C Popham) Tote: £7.30; £1.30, £1.80, £69.10. Dual F: £24.80. CSF: £47.10. Tricast: £1,600.02. NR: Courage-Mon-Brave.

2.45 (2m 5f Ch): 1, PAPER STAR, B Powell (7-2); 2, The Whip (3-1); 3, Oh So Handy (12-1). 6-4 fav Hawaiian Youth. 6 ran. 1¾, 6. (M Muggeridge) Tote: £4.90; £2.00, £1.60. Dual F: £5.10. CSF: £12.91.

3.15 (2m 4f Hdle): 1, CALL ME ALBI, A P McCoy (1-2 fav); 2, Dustir (6-1); 3, Bayford Prince (7-2). 4 ran. 2¾, 20. (G L Moore) Tote: £1.40. Dual F: £3.50. CSF: £3.63.

3.45 (2m Ch): 1, WAVE HILL, M Richards (7-4); 2, Dear Do (6-4 fav); 3, Dawn Chance (20-1). 5 ran. 5, 2. (P Hedger) Tote: £2.60; £1.70, £1.40. Dual F: £2.30. CSF: £4.34. NR: Elsdon, Starlap.

4.15 (2m 4f Hdle): 1, DUSTY POINT, V Smith (6-5 fav); 2, Dunsima (15-8); 3, Sharp Blade (15-2). 6 ran. 4, 20. (C Dwyer) Tote: £2.30; £1.50, £1.60. Dual F: £2.00. CSF: £3.41.

QUADPOT: £1.90. **PLACEPOT:** £6.80.

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Soccer

Champions' League preview

Lazio lesson for Rangers

Mike Collett

THE holders Ajax Amsterdam, Juventus and Spartak Moscow will all clinch places in the European Cup quarter-final if they maintain their form tomorrow. All three have 100 per cent records in the Champions' League; if they make it four wins in a row they cannot finish lower than second in their groups.

Ajax, who have scored 56 goals in 15 domestic and European matches this season — all of them won — should complete the formality when they play Grasshopper Club in Zurich. The Amsterdam side warmed up for the game with a 6-1 league win over Roda JC Kerkrade on Saturday. After beating Grasshopper 3-0 two weeks ago Ajax look far too strong for the current Swiss league leaders, who have yet to score a goal never mind collect a point in the Champions' League.

The Russian champions Spartak Moscow, who travelled to Rosenborg and won 4-2 two weeks ago, will be taking nothing for granted in the return. The Rosenborg coach Nils Arne Eggen said: "We led 2-0 at the break and yet they managed to win 4-2. The match in Moscow will be difficult but it is not an impossible task and we will be looking to counter-attack."

Juventus will qualify for the last eight if they beat Rangers in Glasgow, but they go to Scotland chastened by a surprising 4-0 defeat by Lazio in Serie A on Sunday. The Italian side have now lost three of their last five matches, but they did win the Champions' League game with Rangers 4-1.

Their coach Marcello Lippi hopes to field his first-choice attack of Gianluca Vialli, Fabrizio Ravanelli and Alessandro Del Piero, although the reserve striker Michele Padonvano will be on standby should either Ravanelli or Vialli fail late fitness tests. Both played against Lazio despite carrying injuries.

Rangers, who have only one point from their three games, will have Paul Gascoigne back after he missed the match in Turin. They will, however, be without the suspended Alex Cleland, sent off in Italy, and Alan McLaren and Gordon Durie. Brian Laudrup, David Robertson, Ian Ferguson and Trevor Steven are expected to be ruled out through injury.

Glasgow could witness another memorable night on Thursday, when Celtic take on Paris St Germain in the second leg of their European Cup Winners' Cup second-round tie. PSG won the first leg 1-0 but a rejuvenated Celtic have a good chance of overturning the deficit.

Feyenoord, trying to become only the fourth club after Ajax, Juventus and Barcelona to win all three European club competitions, are favourites to advance against Everton after a 0-0 draw in England two weeks ago.

But Parma, who won the Uefa Cup last season, appear to be heading for elimination after losing 3-0 to Halmstad of Sweden in the first leg.

The three former European Champions in the Uefa Cup, AC Milan, Bayern Munich and Liverpool, all look set to advance against Strasbourg, Raith Rovers and Brondby respectively, while PSV Eindhoven, who defeated Leeds United 5-3 at Elland Road in the first leg, will be aiming to complete the job back in the Netherlands.

Passing by . . . Juventus's Paulo Sousa, left, slips the ball past Jose Antonio Chamot of Lazio in Sunday's 4-0 defeat

Clubs ready to resign over TV deal

Martin Thorpe

SEVERAL First Division clubs have threatened to resign from the Football League over a trip-wire clause in their current television contract with ITV.

As the League's 72 clubs ready themselves for a meeting on November 10 to decide whether to accept a new £120 million five-year television offer from the FA, a clause in the ITV contract could leave the clubs having to accept only £36 million.

Under the ITV contract, which runs out at the end of this season, the Football League must notify the television company of any rival bid before November 1 and then ITV has a month to match it.

If no bid is forthcoming, the Football League must accept another four years with ITV at the same price — £9 million a year over four years.

But although there has been a bid — from the FA — the League's lawyers are still worried that the trip-wire clause could be activated if the FA's offer is rejected on November 10. If the Football League has to stick with the ITV deal, several First Division clubs have made it known they will resign.

So the League clubs' meeting is delicately balanced, because it could decide to reject the FA deal in favour of the rival Premier League offer. This is despite the fact that the FA has insisted that the Football League should not hold talks with the Premier League concerning the rival offer before November 10. This was a condition of the FA extending its deadline for acceptance of its deal from last Thursday to November 10.

"I can confirm we have agreed not to actively pursue another deal," said a Football League spokesman. However, the move is understood not to have gone down well with the Premier League, and questions are bound to be asked about the ethics involved in the game's governing body telling one league it cannot talk to another.

The Football League has still to decide whether to allow the FA to make a formal presentation of its offer to the November 10 meeting. One thing is certain, though: there will be no formal vote by the clubs on the FA offer. Instead, the Football League board will take soundings at the meeting and then decide whether to accept or reject the deal before the FA deadline runs out later that day.

● The FA will not intervene over Tottenham's use of the giant television screen which brought a protest from Newcastle's Kevin Keegan at White Hart Lane on Sunday.

Ardiles facing sack again

Russell Thomas

OSSIE ARDILES is in danger of being sacked — almost a year to the day after he was dismissed by Tottenham.

The Argentinian, ousted at White Hart Lane on November 1, was facing an unhappy first anniversary after seeing his Guadalajara team lose again at the weekend, leaving them bottom of the Mexican first division.

The pressure on the coach, already under heavy criticism, grew with Guadalajara's 2-1 defeat at Morelia, which followed a 3-0 home setback against America.

Kevin Keegan may follow his latest viewing of the Swedish forward Jesper Blomqvist with a £1.5 million offer for the player, who has just helped Gothenburg to his country's championship.

On Saturday Newcastle's manager and his No. 2 Terry McDermott watched Blomqvist help his club to the title in a 2-0 win over Trelleborgs.

Although McDermott insisted "our interest is wider than just Blomqvist", the forward remains Newcastle's prime Swedish target.

Juninho, eager to start his English footballing experience, trained for the first time with Middlesbrough yesterday, less than 24 hours after returning to Teesside on another long flight.

The £4.75 million Brazilian is pencilled in for his eagerly awaited debut against Leeds at the Riverside Stadium on Saturday. But, said Bryan Robson, "Juninho will be eased in gradually. We will have a full-scale practice match on Thursday, when he will be given the role we want him to play."

Although Boro were last night still awaiting Juninho's international clearance, the chief executive Keith Lamb played down fears of another delayed debut. "I understand the certificate is on its way," he said. "I can't see any problems."

UEFA CUP: Second round, second leg

Place on the bench is best Collymore can expect

STAN COLLYMORE is expected to be on the bench at Anfield tonight as Liverpool attempt to improve on the scoreless outcome of the first leg against the Danish club Brondby.

The £8.5 million striker has been unable to command a regular place but yesterday he vigorously denied stories that he had missed training and was at odds with the manager Roy Evans.

Collymore, who was not in Saturday's squad for the 6-0 defeat of Manchester City, blamed a recurring flu virus for his absences and said: "Some of the suggestions about me have been ludicrous. People have said that the pressure of my price tag is getting to me and that I am cracking up. Look at me. Do I look like someone who is going through psychotherapy?

"I wouldn't have signed for Liverpool if it was something I couldn't handle. If the price tag was going to be a problem I wouldn't have moved. I could have stayed at Forest and not had all the so-called pressure. My future is at Liverpool and I am looking forward to it. I wanted to play at the top level and I want to play as well as I can. I am convinced the opportunity to do that will be here at Liverpool, whether it comes tomorrow or in six months."

It is unlikely to be today. With Rush now on the scoresheet after a blank start to the season, Evans, who conceded that Collymore needs more time to adjust to Liverpool's style, is likely to stay with the Rush-Fowler partnership.

If Scales, Barnes and Wright shake off minor injuries the side will show only one change from the one that drew in Copenhagen. Jones, who was suspended for that game, will replace McAteer, who is ineligible. Ruddock, who lost his place when he was suspended, will be on the bench.

Brondby also hope to be unchanged. They expect Alan Neilsen and Dan Eggen, both of whom missed Friday's 4-0 win over Viborg, to be fit, but are resigned to being without their promising young striker Bo Hansen, who missed the first leg through injury.

Cynthia Bateman

PSV Eindhoven v Leeds

HOWARD WILKINSON will need to call upon all his powers of motivation before he sends Leeds United out to face PSV Eindhoven at the Philips Stadium tonight.

His side trail 5-3 to accomplished opponents. Tony Yeboah has stopped scoring and even the most stubborn supporters are finding it difficult to keep looking on the bright side.

To all intents and purposes Leeds's Uefa Cup adventure ended at Elland Road two weeks ago when PSV exposed the defensive soft centre which had concerned Wilkinson for many months.

He has not, of course, conceded defeat. If he believes in miracles many would argue that he has every right to so do, for in the previous round Leeds won 3-0 in Monaco. It was an improbable feat which they will have to repeat tonight if logic is to be turned on its head.

"We are not out of this tie just yet," said Wilkinson. "It is a very tall order for us but as we showed in Monaco we are capable of going away from home and producing a decent performance. We shall give it our best shot."

Working in Leeds's favour, perhaps, is the fear factor — or rather the lack of it. Quite simply they have nothing to lose.

After the first leg a couple of Eindhoven players suggested, somewhat undiplomatically, that English football in general, and Leeds in particular, were second rate. "We did not like that one little bit," said the captain Gary McAllister.

"We must prove that we are not some sort of third-class nation, because that is the way we are starting to be regarded in some quarters of Europe."

With the Dutch press openly wondering whom Eindhoven will meet in the third round, there is no burden of expectation to weigh Leeds down. If they score early, who knows? The cream of Yorkshire may yet rise to the top.

The problem is that Yeboah can't hit a barn door from three paces at the moment, and unless he can score for the first time in seven games all is quite probably lost.

"It has become something of a struggle for me but I know I am a good player," said the Ghanaian, who has proved that with some spectacular goals.

Wilkinson's plan to attack Eindhoven from deep down the flanks lay in tatters last night when the full-back Tony Dorigo was ruled out with a hamstring injury.

On top of that, Eindhoven will, if anything, be even stronger now, with the gifted Brazilian Ronaldo recovered from injury.

● Eight fans were arrested and ordered to be deported yesterday after nearly 100 Leeds supporters arrived in Eindhoven without tickets. The fans were arrested for "violent and threatening behaviour" and were to be sent back to Britain last night.

Ian Ross

Nottm Forest v Auxerre

FOREST go into their second leg against Auxerre determined to attack despite the temptation to sit back on their 1-0 away-leg lead. "We have to treat this as we would a normal Premiership game, as if we haven't got a lead," said their manager Frank Clark.

With that in mind Roy will almost certainly be reinstated up front alongside Lee, in contrast to the game in France where Lee was a lone striker as Forest packed the midfield to counter the threat of Martins and Saib.

However, Forest will have to improve on their performance at QPR to see off Auxerre, whose second-half bombardment of Crossley's goal in the first leg showed how dangerous they can be.

Martin Thorpe

Raith ready to risk teenage defender in Munich

Patrick Glenn

THE teenager Ian McMillan is set to be blooded in Uefa Cup battle as Raith seek the miracle of overturning a 2-0 deficit against Bayern Munich in Germany tonight.

McMillan, a 19-year-old central defender, and Mark Buist made impressive senior debuts in Saturday's 2-2 draw with Rangers.

Raith's manager Jimmy Nicholl is likely to replace Buist but give another game to McMillan, especially with Jürgen Klinsmann probably out of Bayern's team with ankle trouble.

Rangers are in disarray on the eve of Juventus's visit to Ibrox in the Champions' League. The midfielder Stuart McCall is the latest important player to miss the match. He has a rib injury.

McCall is joined by Moore, Laudrup and Robertson as injury casualties, and McLaren, Durie and Cleland are suspended.

● Michael Peck, the former Football League referee from Cumbria, was yesterday ordered to do 200 hours' community service after he pleaded guilty at Carlisle Crown Court to theft, burglary and obtaining property by deception.

Graham's revelations fail to answer crucial questions

continued from page 16

"I remember turning white when he called me to one side after training and said: 'Mr Graham. I have a problem. I have just received my first wages and the money is far less than I anticipated. I am very unhappy'. It transpired he expected to get a net sum, not gross."

Many times, though, a player's demands put Graham off signing him. Bergkamp, asking for a salary over £1 million a year net, was a case in point. Another was David Ginola. "I was desperate to get him. I thought he was fantastic," says Graham. "But as soon as I realised he was on over £500,000 a year net I knew I had no chance. There was no way Arsenal were going to pay £800,000 or more. But he must be getting it now."

However, two crucial questions remain unanswered. First, Graham asserts that the money given him by Hauge was an unsolicited gift and not a slice of any transfer fees. In which case, why did he return the sum in full to Arsenal and not give the money back to the agent?

Second, on September 10 1991, Graham agreed a deal in Oslo with the Norwegian club Start to pay £215,000 for the defender Pal Lydersen. Yet the following day Graham rang Arsenal's chief executive Ken Friar from Oslo informing him that the deal had been done for £500,000. There is an obvious discrepancy.

● Blackburn Rovers may still face severe punishment for using the banned agent Rune Hauge in the recent transfer of Lars Bohinen from Nottingham Forest, according to a leading Fifa official. Fifa is investigating Hauge's exact role in the deal.

The other agent involved in the deal, Frank Mathiesen, asserts that Hauge was only used as an advisor but admits that he was paid.

Fifa will decide whether to impose any sanctions at a meeting of its players status committee on December 9. But a member of that committee, Per Ravn Omdal, said yesterday: "We've got to look to see if he played a concrete part in the deal. But if he has, then the player faces a fine of 50,000 Swiss francs (£30,000) and up to 100,000 Swiss francs for the club."

Sport in brief

Squash

England lost the world No. 2 Peter Marshall from their world championship team yesterday, but the manager Stuart Courtney still rates them favourites to win the title for the first time, *writes Richard Jago*. Despite chronic fatigue, Marshall had said on Sunday he would be fit to play in Cairo in two weeks.

Hockey

Alistair Boyse (East Grinstead) and Howard Hoskin (Reading) have come into the reckoning for Great Britain's Olympic team, *writes Pat Rawlay*. Both were named at senior level for the first time yesterday when a 27-strong squad was announced from which the team for January's qualifying tournament in Barcelona will be named.

Table Tennis

Desmond Douglas looks likely to return to European League competition at the age of 40 after a six-year absence, *writes Richard Jago*. He is in the squad to play Austria at Leeds tomorrow.

Rugby Union

Eric Morisse, aged 28, collapsed and died while playing for SBUC at La Rochelle in the French championship.

Teamtalk

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Arsenal	06	Ipswich Town	19	Sheffield United	15
Aston Villa	11	Leeds United	03	Sheffield Wed.	14
Birm. City	34	Leicester City	35	Southhampton	20
Blackburn	21	Liverpool	04	Stoke City	30
Bolton	36	Man. City	02	Sunderland	27
Brentford	24	Man. United	01	Tottenham Hot.	07
Burnley	31	Middlesbrough	23	West Ham	12
Chelsea	08	Millwall	29	Wimbledon	26
Coventry City	17	Newcastle Utd	16	Wolves	37
Derby County	28	Norwich City	18	Celtic	09
Everton	05	Notts Forest	13	Rangers	10
Hudd. Town	32	QPR	25		

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Pools Forecast

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

1 Arsenal	v	Man Utd	x
2 Chelsea	v	Shef Wed	1
3 Coventry	v	Tottenham	2
4 Man C	v	Bolton	1
5 Middlesbrough	v	Leeds	x
6 Newcastle	v	Liverpool	1
7 Nottm Forest	v	Wimbledon	p
8 Southampton	v	QPR	2
9 West Ham	v	Aston Villa	x

P=Postponed

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

10 Barnsley	v	Wolves	1
11 C Palace	v	Reading	x
12 Huddersfield	v	Norwich	2
13 Ipswich	v	Grimsby	1
14 Sheff Utd	v	Portsmouth	1
15 Stoke	v	Luton	1
16 Tranmere	v	Derby	1
17 Watford	v	Southend	1

SECOND DIVISION

18 Brentford	v	Shrewsbury	1
19 Bristol Rovs	v	Peterborough	1
20 Burnley	v	Notts Co	x
21 Carlisle	v	Brighton	1
22 Chesterfield	v	Bradford C	1
23 Hull	v	Wrexham	2
24 Oxford	v	Bristol C	1
25 Rotherham	v	Crewe	2
26 Swansea	v	Wycombe	x
27 Swindon	v	Stockport	1
28 Walsall	v	Bournemouth	1
29 York	v	Stockport	2

THIRD DIVISION

30 Barnet	v	Doncaster	1
31 Bury	v	Darlington	x
32 Cambridge	v	Scarborough	1
33 Chester	v	Torquay	1
34 Colchester	v	Exeter	1
35 Gillingham	v	Northampton	1
36 Hereford	v	Mansfield	1
37 Lincoln	v	Hartlepool	1
38 Plymouth	v	Cardiff	1
39 Preston	v	L Orient	1
40 Scunthorpe	v	Rochdale	2
41 Wigan	v	Fulham	1

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

42 Aberdeen	v	Hibernian	x
43 Hearts	v	Partick	1
44 Kilmarnock	v	Raith Rvrs	1
45 Motherwell	v	Celtic	2
46 Rangers	v	Falkirk	1

SCOTTISH FIRST DIVISION

47 Dumbarton	v	St Johnstone	x
48 Morton	v	Airdrie	1

SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION

49 Ayr Utd	v	Stirling A	2
50 Clyde	v	Montrose	1
51 East Fife	v	Stranraer	1
52 Queen of Sth	v	Forfar	x
53 Stenhousemuir	v	Berwick	v

V=Void

SCOTTISH THIRD DIVISION

54 Albion Rvrs	v	Ross	2
55 Alloa	v	Livingston	2
56 Brechin	v	Cowdenbeath	1
57 Caledonian	v	Arbroath	1
58 East Stirling	v	Queen o Pk	1

Results

Soccer

BORD GAIS LEAGUE CUP: Final, first leg: Sligo Rvrs 1, Shelbourne 0.

Golf

TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP (Tulsa, Oklahoma). Final round: 280 B Mayfair 68, 70, 69, 73. 283 C Pavin 72, 70, 68, 73; S Elkington (Aus) 71, 72, 67, 73. 284 S Simpson 71, 70, 74, 69; W Austin 71, 68, 73, 72. 285 V Singh (Fiji) 69, 71, 72, 73. 286 J Leonard 70, 70, 72, 74; B Bryant 69, 68, 73, 76. 287 G Norman (Aus) 72, 70, 74, 71; D Duval 74, 69, 71, 73. 288 L Roberts 73, 68, 74, 73. 290 T Lehman 71, 70, 73, 76. 291 N Faldo (GB) 76, 72, 73, 70; M O'Meara 71, 74, 77, 70. 292 B Tway 70, 75, 72, 75. 293 D Love 74, 73, 74, 72; E Els (SA) 71, 74, 75, 73; P Stewart 69, 75, 74, 75; P Jacobsen 73, 70, 73, 77. 294 J Haas 75, 74, 73, 72; K Perry 76, 72, 70, 76; K Triplett 77, 71, 69, 77; L Janzen 75, 70, 71, 78. 295 P Mickelson 79, 73, 68, 75. 296 J Gallagher 74, 73, 75, 74; B Cronshaw 74, 73, 73, 76. 297 F Funk 74, 75, 72, 76; M Calcavecchia 72, 75, 73, 77; S Hoch 75, 72, 71, 79. 299 N Price (Zimb) 77, 73, 74, 75.

1995 VOLVO EUROPEAN TOUR: Order of Merit (bonus pool money added, figure in brackets, tournaments played): 1, C Montgomerie (Scot, 20) £835,051. 2, S Torrance (Scot, 20) 755,706. 3, B Langer (Ger, 19) 655,984. 4, C Rocca (It, 24) 518,320. 5, M Campbell (NZ, 21) 400,977. 6, A Cejka (Ger, 23) 308,114. 7, M James (Eng, 26) 297,377. 8, B Lane (Eng, 24) 284,406; 9, A Forsbrand (Swe, 20) 261,728; 10, P O'Malley (Aus, 21) 260,726. 11, W Riley (Aus, 27) 256,932. 12, H Clark (Eng, 21) 242,068; 13, P Walton (Ire, 24) 234,108. 14, D Clarke (N Ire, 23) 226,175. 15, D Gilford (Eng, 23) 220,048; 16, J Rivero (Sp, 21) 209,238; 17, J Parnevik (Swe, 6) 207,254; 18, P Broadhurst (Eng, 30) 200,542; 19, P-U Johansson (Swe, 21) 188,859; 20, F Nobilo (NZ, 18) 185,831.

Tennis

PARIS OPEN: First round: D Wheaton (US) bt R Furlan (It) 6-2, 6-3; B Black (Zimb) bt A Pavel (Rom) 7-6, 6-3; H-J Davids (Neth) bt L Roux (Fr) 6-2, 3-6, 6-3; R Ronsberg (US) bt M Sinner (Ger) 6-2, 7-5; A Volkov (Rus) bt D Courcol (Fr) 4-6, 6-3, 6-3; M Woodforde (Aus) bt J Grabb (US) 6-1, 6-3.

Ice Hockey

BENSON & HEDGES CUP: Semi-final, first leg: Humberside 3, Nottingham 9.

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier Division: Cardiff 5, Slough 3. Durham 10, Newcastle 1; Milton Keynes 3, Fife 3; Sheffield 9, Basingstoke 2. First Division: Bracknell 12, Billingham 2; Guildford 11 Chelmsford 2; Medway 11, Peterborough 6, Paisley 4, Manchester 9; Solihull 10, Murrayfield 4; Swindon 5, Blackburn 11 Telford 11 Dumfries 6.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Nr Rangers 3 Toronto 2 Philadelphia 5 Ottawa 2 Washington 3 St Louis 1 Anaheim 7 Calgary 2 Chicago 6 Buffalo 3

Bowls

HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL LAWN BOWLS CLASSIC: Semi-finals: N Stanbett (SA) bt D Piketh (SA) 25-23; N Graham (Ire) bt J Ottaway (Eng) 25-20. Finals: Graham bt Burkett 25-24.

American Football

NFC: NY Giants 24 Washington 15; New Orleans 11 San Francisco 7, Houston 19 Tampa Bay 7, Detroit 24 Green Bay 16, Miami 23 Buffalo 6, Arizona 20 Seattle 14. Standings: AFC: Eastern Division: 1, Miami (5, L3, T0, F214, A133); 2, Buffalo (5-3-0-156-145); 3, Indianapolis (5-3-0-162-157). Central: 1, Cleveland (4-4-0-168-158); 2, Pittsburgh (4-4-0-171-174); 3, Cincinnati (3-5-0-189-183). Western: 1, Kansas City (7-1-0-198-138); 2, Oakland (6-2-0-218-123); 3, Denver (4-4-0-168-137). NFC: Eastern Division: 1, Dallas (7-1-0-231-131); 2, Philadelphia (5-3-0-184-182); 3, Arizona (3-5-0-134-194). Central: 1, Chicago (5-2-0-204-167); 2, Green Bay (5-3-0-187-161); 3, Tampa Bay (5-4-0-134-148). Western: 1, San Francisco (5-3-0-205-107); 2, Atlanta (5-3-0-159-175); 3, St Louis (5-3-0-157-169).

Cricket

TOUR MATCH: England XI 332 and 282-5 dec. SA Invitation XI 210 and 25-1. Match abandoned, heavy overnight rain.

TOUR MATCH (Perth): Western Australia 402-5 dec and 189-7 dec. Pakistan 164.

CASTLE CUP: Cape Town: Transvaal 375 and 288. Western Province 304 and 259 (B McMillan 80, D Haynes 52, Jack 4-55). Transvaal won by 79 runs. Pretoria: Northern Transvaal 395 and 263-8 dec (C Lambert 108, A Seymore 72; Shaw 5-98). Eastern Province 331-4 dec and 150-7 (K Wessels 66not). Match drawn. Bloemfontein: Free State 451-9 dec. Boland 215 and 226-7 (K Jackson 57, P DeFreitas 55). Match drawn. East London: Natal 448, Border 91 and 277 (P Kirsten 147, P Botha 61; Crookes 5-59, Marshall 4-48). Natal won by an innings and 80 runs.

Snooker

SKODA GRAND PRIX (Sunderland): Final: S Hendry (Scot) bt J Higgins (Scot) 9-5.

Hockey

AZLAN SHAH TOURNAMENT (Kuala Lumpur): Spain 0, Canada 2.

SCOTTISH CUP: Grange 3, Clydesdale 0; Grangemouth 0, Western 12; Stepps 2, Kelburne 14.

WOMEN'S U-21 INTERNATIONAL (Cardiff): England 2, Czech Republic 0.

HA CUP: Third round draw: Barford T v Canterbury; Bloxwich v Firebrands; Bournemouth v Reading; Bournville v Norton; Bromley v WSM; Cannock v Sheffield; Chichester v Crosfyn; Dereham v Teddington; Doncaster v Blueharts; E Grinstead v Shrewsbury, Edgbaston v Ramsgrhse (Mk); Formby v S Bankers; Guildford (holders) v Harleston M. Hampstead v Lewes; Harborne v Warrington; Havant v Stourport; Indian Gym v Harrogate; Ipswich v Southgate; Isca v Beeston; Khalsa (Wales) v Tunbridge Wells. Maidenhead v Surbiton; Nottingham v Slough; Old Loughtonians v Colchester; Olton WW v Robinsons. Oxford Hawks v Brooklands; Oxford Univ v City of Portsmouth; Redbridge v Richmond; St Albans v Hull; Timperley v Hounslow; Trojans v Ashford (Mx); Winchester v Glos C; Woking v Wimbledon. (Matches to be played Nov 19).

Chess

CREDIT SUISSE MASTERS (Zurich): 6th round standings: V Kramnik (Rus), V Ivanchuk (Ukr) 5/7; N Short (Eng) 4½/6; J Ehlvest (Est) 4/7; A Yusupov (Ger), G Kasparov (Rus) 4/6; B Gulko (US) 3½/7; V Korchnoi (Swit) 3/7; J Timman (Neth), R Vaganian (Arm) 2½/7; J Lautier (Fr) 2/7.

Fixtures

(7.30 unless stated)

UEFA CUP: Second round, second-leg: Bayern Munich v Raith (7.0); Liverpool v Brondby (8.0); Nottm Forest v Auxerre (7.45); PSV Eindhoven v Leeds.

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE: Second Division: Blackpool v Bristol Rovers; Bournemouth v Swindon (7.45); Bradford v Walsall (a-1, 7.45); Brighton v Swansea (7.45); Bristol City v Chesterfield (7.45); Crewe v Hull; Peterborough v Burnley (7.45); Shrewsbury v Oxford Utd; Stockport v Rotherham; Wrexham v Carlisle; Wycombe v York (7.45). Third Division: Cardiff v Scunthorpe; Darlington v Wigan; Exeter v Gillingham (7.45); Fulham v Colchester (7.45); Hartlepool v Barnet; Leyton Orient v Hereford (7.45); Northampton v Preston (7.45); Rochdale v Chester; Scarborough v Plymouth; Torquay v Bury (7.45).

GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Dover v Dag & Red (7.45); Northwich v Southport (7.45); Slough v Farnborough (7.45); Stalybridge v Macclesfield (7.45); Welling v Bath (7.45).

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First Division: Dundee Utd v Clydebank. Second Division: Stenhousemuir v Berwick.

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier Division: Kingstonian v Hayes.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier Division: Gainsborough v Hyde Utd.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Conwy v Llansantfraid; Holywell v Caersws; Newtown v Briton Ferry; Rhyl v Flint Town.

PONTINS LEAGUE: First Division: Shell Utd v Derby (7.0). West Brom v Birmingham C (7.0). Second Division: Sunderland v Barnsley (7.0).

Rugby Union

FIVE NATIONS EUROPEAN CUP: Pool A: Farul Constantza v Toulouse (1.0).

CLUB MATCHES: Cross Keys v Ebbw Vale (7.0); Northampton v Oxford Univ; Wasps v Cambridge Univ; Maesteg v Cwmavon (7.0).

Ice Hockey

BRITISH LEAGUE: First Division: Manchester v Bracknell; Paisley v Murrayfield (8.0).

Hockey

WOMENS INTERNATIONAL (3.0, Bisham): Great Britain v Russia.

REPRESENTATIVE (7.15, Aldershot): Army v United Hospitals.

Sport and politics

The successful bid to build a new English national stadium will be announced today. **John Duncan** looks at the five entries — from Birmingham, Bradford, London, Manchester and Sheffield — and explains why the capital's entry is likely to be the winner

Stadium to go Wembley way

● What is being decided today?

AT 11am at the Strand Palace hotel in London, the five bidders for up to £200 million of National Lottery money — Birmingham, Bradford, Manchester, Sheffield and Wembley — will find out who has won the battle for the new English national stadium.

● Who is going to win?

WEMBLEY. With (probably) something for Manchester, which has to host the 2002 Commonwealth Games somewhere. Long shot: Bradford as a second stadium to soothe northern anger.

● Why?

AS MUCH as anything, a process of elimination. Birmingham has serious planning difficulties because the local council does not really want the stadium. Manchester's transport access is deemed insufficient, Sheffield's stadium has a fixed athletics track and its new two-stadium one-site solution has probably come too late. Bradford is innovative and relatively cheap but suffers from the city's poor image.

● So Wembley by default?

THERE are positive reasons too. There is a strong argument that a national stadium should be in the capital; for foreigners it is the only place in England they want to visit or bring international sports events to. There is also the name, tradition and history, a track record of hosting major events, and its unmatched transport infrastructure.

● Unmatched transport infrastructure? Have you ever tried getting out of Wembley after a big match?

AGREED, it is not a pleasant experience, as anyone who has ever shuffled along and been herded through Wembley Park's single entrance would testify. It does sometimes seem as if London Underground has been taken by surprise by a major sports event going on that day. And by car? Wembley is the venue of legendary tailbacks and bumper-to-bumper crowds.

● So why is this infrastructure unmatched?

EXPERTS say the problems would be the same anywhere. The Tube capacity at Wembley Park — 25,000 people per hour — is beyond anything the other bidders can promise and will double when London Underground completes a £32 million refurbishment. The North Circular Road will be upgraded.

● Why did only Wembley come forward in London?

ISSUES associated with building stadiums, planning and infrastructure, take time for local authorities to sort out. The Sports Council had hoped more green-field sites would come forward, particularly in London, but, say some, did not allow time for credible new bidders to come forward. There has been interest from several potential Docklands bidders but none could move quickly enough.

● So what about Manchester and Bradford then?

THE panel knows that if it gives the money to Wembley alone the North will feel ignored. Manchester has to host the 2002 Commonwealth Games, and has been promised something. But Bradford, whose futuristic stadium with its retractable roof is undoubtedly the most imaginative on offer, wants from the Lottery only £20 million of the £200 million cost. That may prove an irresistibly cheap way of avoiding anti-North accusations.

● Isn't Wembley a private company though?

CORRECT. And theoretically lottery money should not benefit profit-making bodies. Wembley plc has been in financial difficulty for several years and some critics see its bid — structured so that the stadium itself will be owned as an independent trust, with a 21-year management contract handed, via another trust, to Wembley plc — as a neat way for Wembley to have its cake and eat it. It donates the land and name, while public money rebuilds the stadium. It palms off the ownership and upkeep of an out-of-date stadium to a trust, and it takes a profit-making role as contractors in its operation. Nice work if you can get it.

● Why do we need a national stadium?

GOOD question. Most other European countries do not have one, nor does the United States. Italy has several major football/athletics stadiums (including Rome, Turin, Naples and Cagliari), with soccer internationals and athletics events rotating around the country. Spain similarly rotates soccer internationals around its larger stadiums, with the Barcelona Olympic stadium — the closest recent model to the concept behind England's national stadium — something of a white elephant. One difference is that English football-club grounds are perceived as too small to stage the biggest games: Old Trafford is the largest with a 55,000 capacity from next year.

● Who is making this decision?

A10-PERSON panel under the auspices of the Sports Council. However, it is dominated by football interests, with six football people on the committee. The panel has looked at the proposals, heard presentations at the end of last week, taken advice from another panel of technical experts and will meet this morning to make a final decision.

● Who elected this panel?

NO ONE. It was chosen by the Sports Council to represent the parties who will bring business to the stadium. Spectator interests are not represented. The biggest user will be football (internationals, FA Cup, League Cup, promotion play-offs etc). However, a split has developed between the Council and the football interests, with the former feeling increasingly that the FA and Premier League, in particular, are looking for the best deal for themselves rather than in the national sporting interest.

Rugby Union

England misses first course of European feast

Robert Armstrong

THE pace of the rugby union revolution has been so rapid during the past six months that many supporters in Britain will scarcely be aware that the new European Cup competition starts today.

The historic opening match between the French champions Toulouse and the Romanian side Farul Constanta in Bucharest will herald an intriguing series of games involving clubs from five countries and culminating in a live televised final in Cardiff on January 7.

Despite the unworthy efforts of the Rugby Football Union to pour cold water on the tournament, the directors of Five Nations Rugby Ltd, which organises the games, have agreed a lucrative £20 million deal with ITV which guarantees its financial success. While the English and Scottish clubs who have been barred by their unions from taking part twiddle their thumbs, scores of clubs in the participating countries can look forward to substantial pay-outs this season.

Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary, has criticised the organisation of the new competition before a single game has been played, yet England's top clubs, Bath and Leicester, are seething with anger at their forced exclusion. Hallett has condescendingly suggested that the RFU might even start "our own competition" at an unspecified date — which implies that the RFU wants to extend over clubs the dictatorial role it already assumes among the home unions in money matters.

Sadly, Bath, the club many neutrals would back to win the European Cup, must take a back seat while Twickenham allows its obsession with money and power to come before the best interests of the players. Instead, outstanding club and provincial sides such as Cardiff, Swansea, Milan, Munster, Ulster, Toulouse and Bègles-Bordeaux will battle it out for the honour of becoming inaugural European champions.

Bath's coach Brian Ashton does not relish the prospect of being cast as spectre at the European feast. "I would love the opportunity to take the Bath side to Toulouse, who play with the same philosophy as we do," he said. "It would be tremendous for our players to come up against a totally different culture of rugby.

"League One rugby will never be boring but you tend to know what the opposition will do week in, week out before they even get on the field. It would be nice to go to different places and play against sides we don't normally come into contact with."

The competitive demands of top Scottish clubs such as Melrose and Hawick have also been kicked into touch, by the Scottish Rugby Union. The danger is that the English and Scottish clubs may fall behind in technique and tactics, just as English soccer clubs did during their exclusion from European competition.

Ashton believes the RFU must move quickly to develop a structured season that embraces international club competition without unduly taxing the strength and fitness of the leading players.

He admitted: "I'm not sure what League One rugby will mean to the likes of Bath in three or four years' time. Will Bath be playing European rugby or will we be in a world club championship? If so, will the players also be expected to play in League One games and full international matches as well?

"I don't know any player who could withstand that sort of pressure and still play the high-velocity game that is demanded nowadays."

For the moment, though, the Welsh and the Irish will seize the opportunity to apply the lessons of the World Cup — such as the need for quick handling and continuity at pace — to their new European experience with the French and the Italians.

ITV plans to network highlights of all the pool matches and at a regional level will provide live transmission of several games, including the semi-finals on December 30. Tomorrow the Welsh and the Irish throw down the gauntlet, with Swansea playing Munster in Limerick and Leinster visiting Milan.

Cricket

Lever fails to straighten Malcolm

Edward Harris in Soweto

DEVON MALCOLM, the reluctant pupil, has been expelled from Peter Lever's bowling school without a single pass mark to his name. Lever, England's bowling coach in South Africa, conceded yesterday that he had given up trying to convince Malcolm that a straighter approach in delivery would improve his accuracy without reducing his speed.

"It's been like trying to teach an old dog new tricks," said Lever. "Devon has found it very difficult and I think we have to accept that this is it with him. He will carry on bowling as he has done for the past 10 years.

"It is a great pity: I would have loved to have got my hands on him when he was 19 because he has all the attributes for a fast bowler: pace, strength and build. He could have been a regular in the Test side for the past eight years instead of being in and out.

"He still has that pace and fitness, but that is all. The rest of his cricket is a nonentity. He really needs to make the batsmen play more often than he does, but there is no question of me trying to change him into a medium-pacer. I thought he was capable of changing but perhaps he lacks the confidence to try it at his stage of life."

The Malcolm saga came to an end on Sunday morning when England took him out of the match here, which finished as a soggy draw yesterday when a thunderstorm washed out the final day's play, for an extracurricular two-hour net session.

The 32-year-old Malcolm, as he has done all tour, did not bowl at full tilt, which convinced Lever that the strike bowler might as well be allowed to do things his way — although that has brought him 116 Test wickets at an expensive 36 runs apiece in 34 Tests dotted irregularly over the past six years.

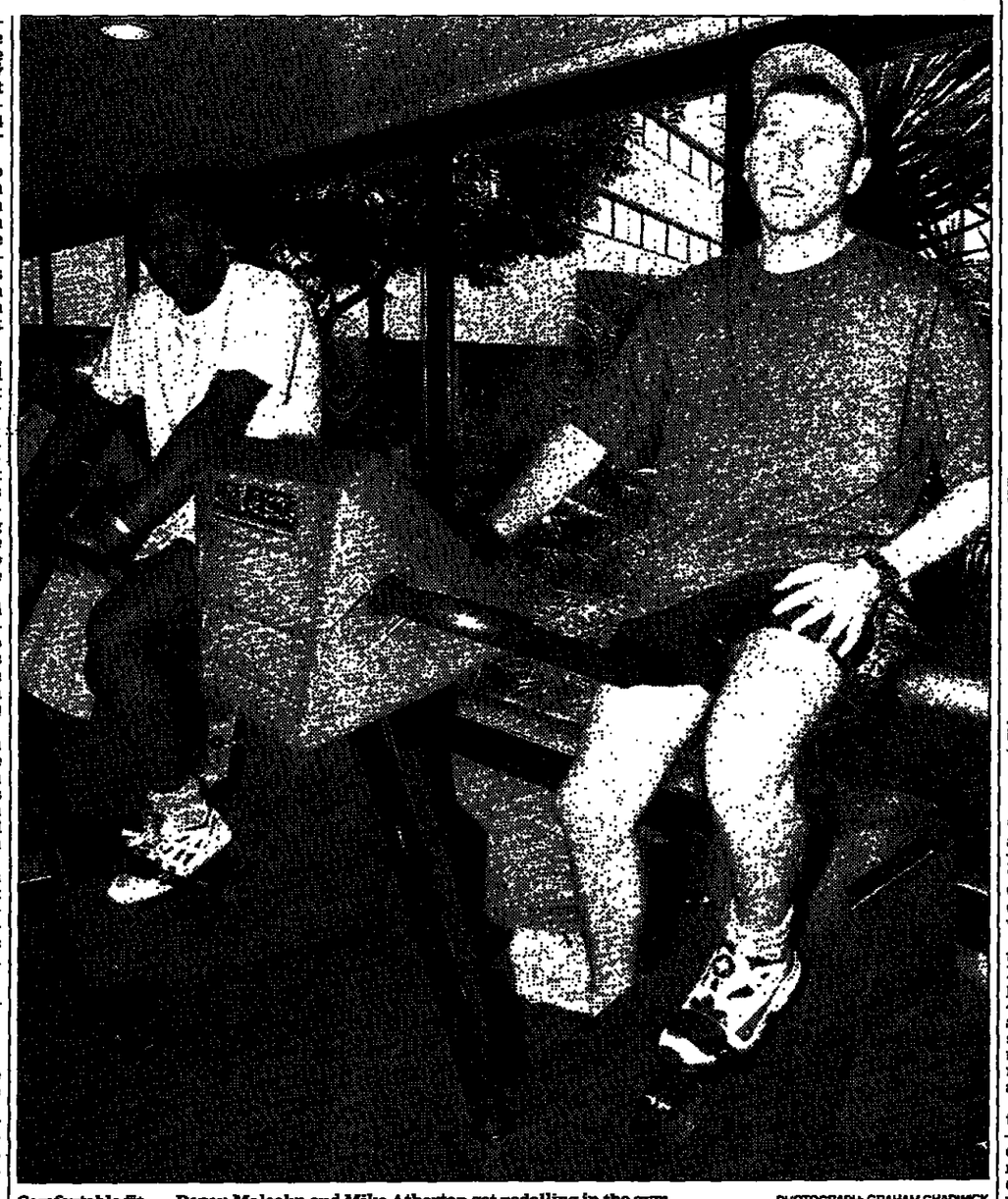
England's last weapon to get the best out of Malcolm before the first Test, which begins in 16 days' time, was a psychological boot up the backside when yesterday, beside the pool at the team's hotel, Lever and the team manager Ray Illingworth gave their damning verdict on their fastest bowler.

A frustrated Illingworth, from beneath a shirt draped over his head to prevent either sunburn or identification, said: "It's not worked out with Devon as we had hoped. He is one of six seamers here and he has to go out and bowl and show me he is one of the best three. Unfortunately he has been getting over a knee operation and we have not had the time to do the two months' work we wanted with him."

Malcolm would have liked the chance to impress yesterday, even on the slow Soweto pitch, but the match was abandoned an hour before the scheduled start, leaving him without a wicket from his 19 overs in the match.

England fly to East London today for a four-day game against Border starting on Thursday, which Malcolm is likely to miss while Darren Gough, Dominic Cork and Peter Martin, none of whom played here, are given a game.

That would leave Malcolm only one match — against South Africa A next week — before the first Test to persuade Illingworth that his wayward pupil is still worth gainful employment.



Comfortable fit . . . Devon Malcolm and Mike Atherton get pedalling in the gym PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM CHADWICK

ICC still silent on Malik case

THE International Cricket Council will not reply for a week to Australian criticism after Pakistan cleared Salim Malik of bribery charges. The Australian board says the ICC should judge the allegation that Malik tried to bribe Mark Waugh, Shane Warne and Tim May to lose matches in 1994.

Pakistan, chasing 428 for victory in Perth, lost Aamir Sohail for eight and were 54 for one at the close of the third day of their match against Western Australia.

Tennis

Henman hits a twin high

David Irvine

INTEREST in the 13th Guardian Direct nationals at Telford, heightened by Greg Rusedski's first appearance, was stimulated further yesterday when Tim Henman, winner of the ATP Challenger event in Seoul, emerged at a career-high 116th in the latest world rankings.

In a significant change in the British pecking order, Henman moved into second place behind Rusedski, now 41st, whereas Jeremy Bates, as high as 55th in March, slipped back to 147th, behind not only Rusedski and Henman but also Chris Wilkinson and Mark Petchey.

Bates, who is unbeaten at the nationals for three years — and as the only ever-present among the men has a remarkable 44-6 record in the event — is seeded to play Henman, whom he defeated on grass at Queen's Club in June, at the semi-final stage.

Henman, who missed Telford last season with a bad ankle injury, holds his best ranking after winning on Sunday in Seoul — a city, oddly, where Bates claimed his first ATP Tour title in 1994 and Rusedski took over as champion earlier this year.

Although a clear favourite, possessing a massive serve (up to 137mph) which no other Briton can match, Rusedski may still encounter stiff resistance — as at Queen's, where Petchey beat him. Significantly, Petchey is his likely semi-final opponent.

Queen's marked Rusedski's first event as a British player — he was born and raised in Canada but has mother is from Yorkshire — and despite a fourth-round finish at Wimbledon and a semi-final in Basle he has won only 12 of his 26 singles since switching his allegiance.

Bates is 12-22 for the year on the ATP circuit, having suffered 14 first-round defeats, but there is no one in the draw this week who has beaten him at Telford. A seventh title, matching Jo Durie's in the women's singles, is his aim.

Both may make their last appearances at Telford. Durie, who has won more than £70,000 over the past 12 years at this event, is now 35 and Bates, who has profited by £68,000, is 33.

Notable absentees in the men's draw are Wilkinson, who is on honeymoon, Danny Sapsford and Andrew Richardson. In the women's singles, last year's runner-up Kaye Hand has withdrawn, as has the 1994 winner Jo Ward, because of injury.

Two fascinating first-round matches have Miles Maclagan, last year's runner-up, playing Jamie Delgado in a replay of a 1994 semi-final, while the American-based Rachel Viollet and Monique Javer clash in the women's.

Rugby League

Keighley given Regal chance to tilt at the Saints

Paul Fitzpatrick

THE Regal Trophy, which carries a £60,000 first prize, has been seen as an unwelcome intrusion into an overcrowded season, but not this time.

It could prove to be the perfect antidote to any World Cup hangover and a welcome diversion to the truncated Centenary Championship season; that resumes tomorrow but, with Wigan coasting, it may struggle to sustain interest.

Wigan, the holders of the trophy, were the first name out of the hat when the second-round draw was made in Huddersfield yesterday, and a home game with Whitehaven is practically a guarantee of a place in the last 16.

Arguably, the best contest will be at Cougar Park, where St Helens travel to meet Keighley, last season's Second Division champions who were denied promotion amid the Super League furore.

Keighley have since run into financial problems and their future is uncertain. The chairman Mike O'Neill said the draw was a relief from bad news and would provide an ideal test.

There are, he said, predators "out there waiting to string Keighley up. But we are not going to lie down and die". Nor, he added, were the players up for sale.

Leeds, with home advantage against Salford, should have less to worry about but they will not underestimate a side coached by Andy Gregory.

Oldham will not be overjoyed at the prospect of a trip to Widnes, and Workington will be wary of a clash with St Estève, who beat Leigh 19-16 in the first round.

● Cardiff have increased their offer for Warrington's Jonathan Davies. But Wire, who described the original £30,000 bid as "derisory", turned down the £55,000 offer.

REGAL TROPHY: Second-round draw: Wigan v Whitehaven; Dewsbury v Barrow; Keighley v St Helens; Widnes v Oldham; Huddersfield v Featherstone; London v Highfield; Leeds v Salford; Bramley v Hunslet; Hull KR v Rochdale; Batley v Wakefield; St Estève v Workington; Chorley v Warrington; Bradford v Sheffield; Hull v York; Halifax v Swinton; Carlisle v Castleford (matches to be played on weekend of November 11-12).

American Football

Rice plays down his receiving record as 49ers lose to Saints

JERRY RICE, regarded by many as the greatest wide receiver in National Football League history, made it official on Sunday. The 49er became the league's all-time leader in receiving yardage during the first half of San Francisco's game against the New Orleans Saints.

Rice went into the game needing 73 yards to surpass the 14,004 amassed by James Lofton between 1978 and 1993. After two quarters Rice had six catches for 80 yards. He finished with 108 from eight, taking his career total to 14,040.

And the Super Bowl champions finished 11-7 losers to the lowly Saints, which took the gloss off it all. "The record doesn't mean anything because we lost," said the selfless Rice admirably.

With the great 49ers quarterbacks Joe Montana and Steve Young, Rice has been part of two of the most prolific passing combinations. But the record-breaking catch came on a 13-yard pass from Elvis Grbac, standing in for the injured Young.

Rice has one major receiving record to break. He currently has 875 catches; Art Monk finished on 934.

Last season Rice, with 139, passed Jim Brown's 126 touchdowns. He has also had nine consecutive 1,000-yard seasons, another NFL record.

Fitness helps. In 11 seasons Rice, who is 33, has not missed a game.

Grbac scored on a one-yard plunge but that was all the offence the 49ers could muster as the Saints claimed only their second win of the season.

In Atlanta Emmitt Smith rushed for 167 yards and a touchdown, Troy Aikman threw two touchdown passes and Deion Sanders, who has signed a £20 million-plus contract, made his Dallas Cowboys debut in a 28-13 win over the Falcons.

Dan Marino returned from knee surgery to help end Miami Dolphins' three-game losing run with a 23-6 rout of the Buffalo Bills.

Ice Hockey

The eyes have it as Flyers take a step towards final

Vic Batchelder

SOMETIMES, even in this age when technological wizardry is used to determine matters of sporting doubt and decision, the human eye can still prove equal to the task.

Saturday's first leg of the Benson and Hedges Cup semi-final between Fife Flyers and Sheffield Steelers at Kirkcaldy hinged on a crucial decision as to whether a 30th-minute shot from Fife's Steven King had struck the bar and rebounded clear, or entered the net and come out again.

The home-town goal judge, from his position off the ice behind the net, did not signal a goal and the referee Drew Fraser initially accepted that verdict. As arguments raged between Flyers and the referee, Sky Sports viewers around the country witnessed reruns of the incident proving conclusively that the puck had entered the net and a goal was due, putting Fife 3-2 ahead.

Finally, again seen and heard on screen, one of the linesmen, Norrie Grieve, advised Fraser that "it was definitely a goal, the puck went in".

The referee changed his initial decision and confirmed the score, and Flyers went on to complete a surprise 5-3 win over opponents who are favourites to win the cup when the final is played at their home base, the Sheffield Arena, on December 2.

Despite the result, Steelers' third goal of the night 90 seconds from time, scored by Ken Priestlay, may prove decisive in the aggregate score after the return in Sheffield on Saturday.

Flyers' new player-coach Mark Morrison and King both scored twice, with Chris Palmer getting the other. Tony Hand and Steve Nemeth netted the first two for Steelers.

The first leg of the other semi-final proved more conclusive: Nottingham Panthers will take a six-goal advantage into the return game next Sunday after a 9-3 away win over the Humberside Hawks.

Snooker

Tyson upsets Lewis's plans

LENNOX LEWIS refused to be counted out by yesterday's revelation that Frank Bruno's WBC heavyweight title defence against Mike Tyson is being planned for Las Vegas on March 16.

America's fight-game moguls are believed to have switched the fight from Britain to the United States in the wake of Lewis's legal action to prevent a Bruno-Tyson fight delaying his own campaign to regain the crown.

The legal sparring may well intensify in the High Court on Thursday when a decision will be made on Lewis's attempt to win an injunction to preserve his claim to fight for the title ahead of Tyson. A temporary injunction was issued last week.

Bruno is due in Las Vegas on Saturday to see Tyson fight Buster Mathis Jr.

● Sheffield's Prince Naseem Hamed yesterday pledged to make short work of his first World Boxing Organisation featherweight title challenger, even though his Mexican opponent, Arnulfo Castillo, is unbeaten in 19 fights.

They meet at the London Arena on December 9 and Hamed said: "I'll turn up on the night, do the usual things and he will get stopped."

Europe's golfers end a momentous year, page 13
Ardiles' latest job in jeopardy, page 14
D-Day for the new national stadium, page 15
England's coaches give up on Malcolm, page 15

SportsGuardian

THE DAY GEORGE GRAHAM SPILT THE BUNGS

Not a word . . . except to the Sun when it pays? George Graham, working for the BBC and ITV in his year off, here keeps his counsel in the press box PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

Riddle of Bergkamp deal

Martin Thorpe on a £2 million mystery in the transfer to Arsenal and the shady business of agents when foreign players sign

DENNIS Bergkamp's transfer from Inter Milan to Arsenal was yesterday under fresh scrutiny after an agent confirmed George Graham's claim that Arsenal could have bought the player for at least £2 million less than the published price of £7.5 million.

The agent said that after protracted negotiations last summer he offered Arsenal — by then managed by Bruce Rioch — the player for £5.5 million. Then, on Friday June 16, Arsenal's chief executive Ken Friar rang him to say that the club no longer wished to buy Bergkamp because they did not want to break their rigid wage structure.

Four days later, however, the player signed for £7.5 million. Two new agents were involved in the deal, in which it is not suggested that there was any wrongdoing.

The original agent is mystified. "I cannot understand why Ken Friar rang me saying that Arsenal no longer wanted to buy Bergkamp because his salary would have broken the club's pay structure and then sign him four days later," he said.

Arsenal yesterday refused to comment on the transfer beyond saying, "We are happy with the player," but the agent's experience graphically supports Graham's revelations about the behind-the-scenes financial manipulations which have enabled English clubs to sign some of the best players in the world by inflating transfer fees to cover signing-on payments, agents' fees and other expenses.

In his book The Glory and Grief, Graham says that last season he was also offered Bergkamp when he was manager at Arsenal, this time for £5 million. Chelsea have said they were offered him for £4.5 million. So why did Arsenal pay £7.5 million?

"It is normal transfer procedure," says Graham in his book. "There are always three figures. There is a figure the selling club retains, there is a figure the buying club pays and there is often a difference — and that goes between the agent and the player.

"Does anybody in their right mind think that David Platt or Bergkamp have come here for the wages? Of course not. The biggest wages in the world are still in Italy. But if someone said, 'Here is a signing-on fee, you can stick it in the bank and invest it,' well, that's a different story.

"They are not over here for salaries. They get a fee and then they get a salary. Or they don't come."

Paying money to players in a lump sum rather than adding it to their salary can often have tax advantages. It also keeps a player's true earnings from his team-mates.

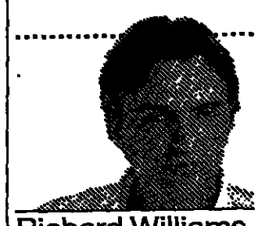
"There is often at least one agent looking for a cut, the player seeking an extra inducement and the selling club not wanting to divulge the true cost of the transaction for any number of reasons," says Graham.

The question is: how much of this money makes its way back in the form of bungs? Graham himself was banned from the game for a year after receiving over £400,000 from the agent Rune Hauge, even though the former Arsenal manager insists that the money comprised "unsolicited gifts".

Graham's first experience of the foreign way came when he signed Anders Limpar in 1990. The club had not realised, in negotiating his salary, that players on the Continent always talk in net figures, not gross. Limpar soon realised that there had been a misunderstanding.

Continued on page 14

The high price of a place in the Sun



Richard Williams

NOW WE know what George Graham was telling his old friend Terry Venables as they took their seats for the second half at Loftus Road on Saturday. Not a shrewd assessment of Trevor Sinclair's transfer value but an exclusive preview of the contents of pages 1, 2, 3, 30, 31 and 32 of yesterday's Sun. And, perhaps, an indication of the size of Rupert Murdoch's cheque.

Caught by the Match of the Day cameras, Graham's appearance next to the England coach was typical of the strange half-life he has led since his dismissal from the managership of Arsenal last February, and the subsequent one-year ban from football. Like his occasional engagements as a summariser on BBC Radio Five Live and LWT's Sunday Match, it was an uncomfortable reminder of his fugitive existence.

Yesterday Graham gave the Sun his version of the circumstances surrounding his acceptance of "gifts" amounting to more than £400,000 from the Norwegian agent Rune Hauge, with whom he had negotiated the transfers of John Jensen and Pal Lydersen to Arsenal. In so doing he raised more questions than he answered.

His account did contain one or two surprises, but definitely not among them was the claim, which continues to defy credulity, that the payments were unsolicited and came as a surprise. According to him, the first instalment arrived in the form of £140,500, all in £50 notes, stuffed into plastic envelopes and handed over by Hauge at the Park Lane Hotel, London, in late December 1991: "I thought, 'Jesus, what a Christmas present . . .'"

APPARENTLY Graham was too busy to count the dosh. When he got the good news from his bank, he writes, "I was in absolute shock. I thought, 'Jesus, I didn't know there was so much'." But, he says, neither that nor a further payment by Hauge of £285,000 by banker's draft represented a meaningful change in his personal circumstances. "I was on a big salary. I didn't really need it. Looking back, it would not have altered my life." Yet such an enviable position had not rendered him immune to the "fleeting moment of greed" which prevented him from giving the money back to Hauge.

"But," he adds, "I want to know how many people faced with a gift like that would have the strength of character to say no." At which point, when one remembers his fatherless upbringing in a mining community outside Glasgow, a straight condemnation of this self-created man becomes harder to sustain.

More interestingly, Graham now claims that the money had nothing to do with the Jensen and Lydersen deals. He says it represented an informal tip-off fee for advising Hauge to offer Peter Schmeichel and Andrei Kanchelskis to Manchester United after he had decided they were of no interest to Arsenal.

"When the deals went through Hauge said very precisely, 'I will not forget what you have done for me.' I never thought he meant payment. I did it to maintain our good relationship. As far as I am aware no payment I ever received from Hauge was connected with either the Lydersen or Jensen transfers."

Could Graham really have believed that Hauge had slipped him £425,500 as a tip fee in respect of two transfers for which United had paid an aggregate of only £1.2 million? And did he genuinely think that bringing players to other clubs was consistent with his employment at Highbury?

HIS current position is equivocal. Venables, the FA's most visible employee, would presumably advance loyalty and compassion in defence of their continued public association. Still clouded by his own involvement in the Sheringham transfer, no doubt he believes that Graham should not bear the symbolic guilt for what is believed to be a more widespread phenomenon.

But it is absurd that Graham should be receiving BBC money, and a spokesman told me yesterday that his position would be reconsidered this week. It is not vindictive to suggest that ITV should follow suit. Graham reckons that the ban will cost him £2 million, which apparently means that his children will have to go without their promised trust fund, but according to the Sun he is still in "his plush home in Hampstead".

FA will take no further action but Premier League still on bung trail

GEORGE GRAHAM will not be punished further after his admission that he accepted "a gift" of £140,000 in £50 notes from the controversial agent Rune Hauge, *writes Martin Thorpe.*

Although Graham admitted that "greed got the better" of him in accepting the cash at a Park Lane Hotel, the FA says the matter was dealt with fully during its commission of inquiry hearing which found the former Arsenal manager guilty of taking this money and another £285,000 from Hauge and banned him from the game for a year.

A Premier League spokesman said that its own inquiry's findings and the steps taken by the FA "have been fully vindicated by the extracts from Mr Graham's book".

The PL's inquiry continues into other bung allegations. Investigation into the transfer of Teddy Sheringham to Tottenham is understood to be delaying it.

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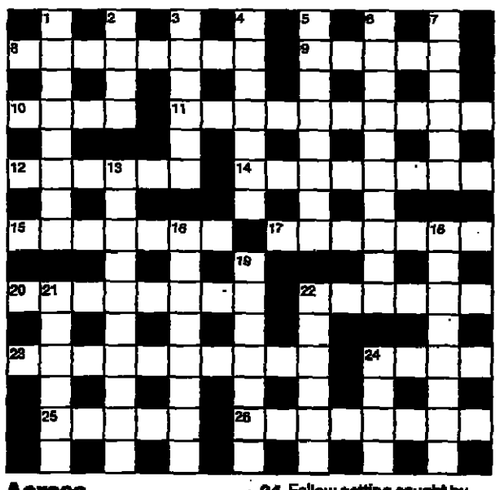
For each of the last 30 years I have expected a declaration of the imminent legalisation of cannabis. Each year I have been wrong. But there is a case for growing optimism. Thank you, Clare Short.
Howard Marks

Page 9

Guardian Crossword No 20,486

Set by Orlando

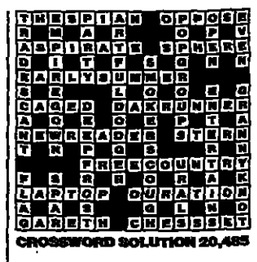


Across

8 Burning duck — pink bird (8)
9 Animal given fruit by petty officer (5)
10 Being in court to defend someone, people say, means justification (4)
11 Absent-minded summary by journalist (10)
12 A woman staggering in the bar (6)
14 Where calendar changes may be entailed? (4,4)
15 Pardon set many free (7)
17 Vet taking about a hundred sick pets in (7)
20 To spread more canvas causes trouble (4,4)
22 Young fish goes in without restraint (6)
23 Why do beaus err in a bordello? (5-5)
24 Fellow getting caught by accident (4)
25 Making French city trips . . . (5)
26 . . . a snail in France is carrying freight (8)

Down

1 Being nimble, he restored Marlborough seat (8)
2 A prophet seen in Judaea, mostly (4)
3 Capital of King Arthur first held by an academician (6)
4 Meat for league leaders? (7)
5 Furniture maker using another's design (8)
6 To see a US city policeman with revolutionary is a revelation (10)
7 Up-to-date poem in Mr Larkin's last letter (6)
13 Some turned out to be awful (10)
16 Art instructor displayed in case? (3-5)
18 Mr Coolidge drops in, returning mixer or liqueur (6)
19 Boor given food outside and treated with contempt (7)
21 A town band is in store (6)
22 Painting forces in conflict (6)
24 Find fault with fish (4)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,485

Solution tomorrow

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